

From the creator of *No Game No Life*



6

CLOCKWORK PLANET

Story by Yuu Kamiya and Tsubaki Himana
Manga by Kuro Character Design by Sino



CLOCKWORK PLANET



VI



STORY BY YUU KAMIYA & TSUBAKI HIMANA
MANGA BY KURO
CHARACTER DESIGN BY SINO

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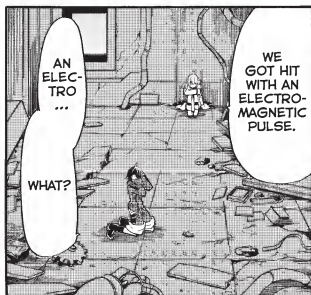


GRID AKIHABARA



...
NNH!







F
FIP

A
POWERFUL
ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC
PULSE...

MAGNETIZED
EVERYTHING.

EVERYTHING...
EVERYTHING
IS BROKEN...

DO YOU
UNDER-
STAND
THAT?

**GRID KASUMIGASEKI:
RULING PARTY HQ**

I
KNOW
THAT.

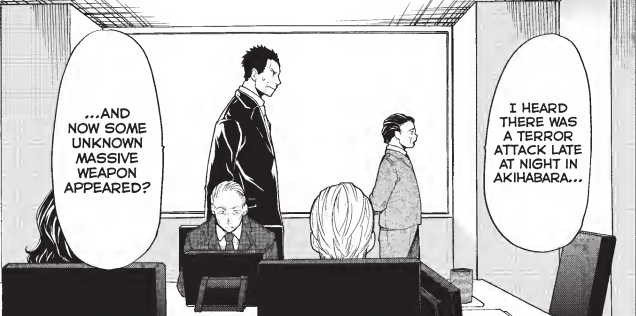
CONSIDER
HOW I FEEL
HAVING TO
INTERRUPT
MY GOLF
GAME
BECAUSE
YOU BOYS
ARE IN
SUCH A
HURRY.

YOUR
EXCEL-
LENCY!

THE
CONFER-
ENCE HAS
ALREADY
STARTED!

BESIDES,
I ALREADY
GET THE
GENERAL
GIST OF
WHAT'S
GOING
ON.

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WISH



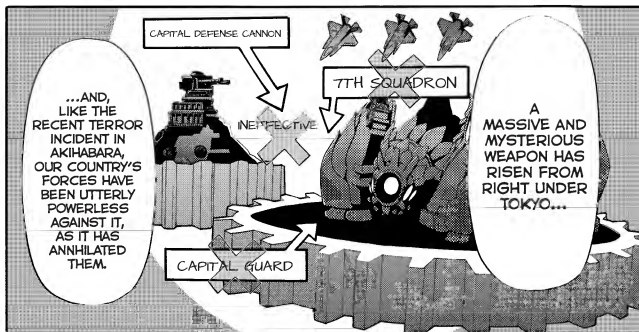
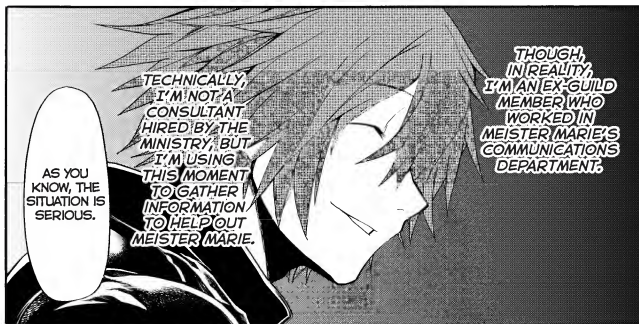


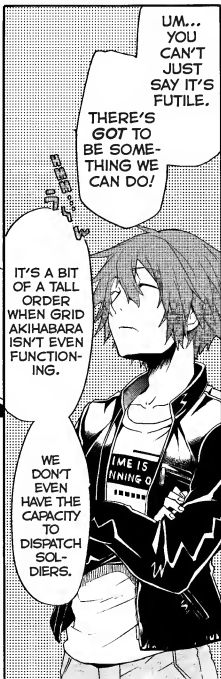
FLUFF

MY NAME IS
YU KARASAWA.
I'M A CIVILIAN
MEISTER.

THANK
YOU, NICE
TO MEET
YOU.

Clock 26: Halt







**URGENT
ACTION IS
NEEDED!**

IF WE
ALLOW GRID
AKIHABARA
TO SIT
DISABLED,
IT'S ONLY A
MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE
IT STARTS
TO AFFECT
THE OTHER
GRIDS...



**ACTION?
SUCH
AS...?**

DON'T
BE SO
SCARY...



**WE MUST
PURGE GRID
AKIHABARA,
ALONG WITH
THE WEAPON,
AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.**



**FIGURING OUT
WHO'LL BE HELD
ACCOUNTABLE IS
NOT THE FORE-
MOST PRIORITY
RIGHT NOW.**

I CAN'T
RECOMMEND
THAT.

UH...

SURE, THAT'S
THINKING
REALISTICALLY,
EXCEPT-

GRID
AKIHABARA
IS AN
IMPORTANT
PART OF THE
OPERATION
FOR
MULTIPLE
GRID
TOKYO.

GLARE

AND
WHY
NOT?

THERE'S
NO WAY TO
DROP IT
WITHOUT
AFFECTING
THE OTHER
GRIDS.

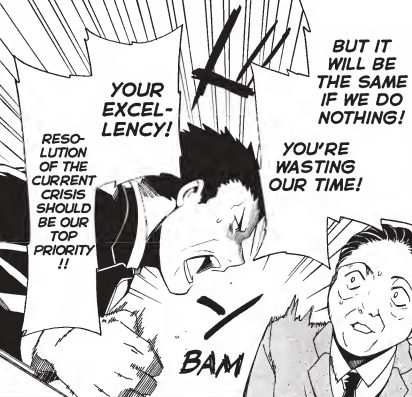
STILL-
THAT
WON'T
LAST
HALF A
YEAR.

DISABLED

ASSIST

ASSIST

RIGHT NOW,
THE OTHER
GRIDS ARE
COMPEN-
SATING FOR
AKIHABARA'S
SUSPENDED
FUNCTION.



**YOUR
EXCEL-
LENCY!**

RESO-
LUTION
OF THE
CURRENT
CRISIS
SHOULD
BE OUR
TOP
PRIORITY
!!

**BUT IT
WILL BE
THE SAME
IF WE DO
NOTHING!**

**YOU'RE
WASTING
OUR TIME!**

BAM



ANYONE
THINKING
ABOUT IT
OBJECTIVELY
SHOULD BE
ABLE TO
SEE THAT.

I
THOUGHT
THESE
POLITICIANS
ALL
GRADUATED
FROM TOP
SCHOOLS?



**BUT THINK
OF WHAT
PEOPLE
WOULD
SAY...**

PRESS

**THE
RESIDENTS OF
AKIHABARA HAVE
BEEN FULLY
EVACUATED.
WE NEED YOUR
AUTHORIZATION
TO PURGE IT
NOW!**

LET'S NOT
BE HASTY!
WE DON'T
KNOW
WHAT THE
NATURE
OR GOAL
OF THIS
WEAPON
IS YET!

SKRUT

HOLD ON,
CHIEF
CABINET
SECRETARY!

あ、OH!

WHAT AN
IDEALISTIC
DIET
MEMBER.

NOT VERY
PRACTICAL,
THOUGH.

SHOULD WE
NOT FIRST
ATTEMPT TO
NEGOTIATE
WITH THE
PERPETRA-
TORS?

BOOM

THERE ARE
PLENTY OF
EXCUSES WE
CAN MAKE,
JUST AS
LONG AS WE
TAKE CARE
OF THIS!

PURGING
AKIHABARA
ISN'T JUST
AN ISSUE
FOR JAPAN.
THINK ABOUT
HOW OTHER
COUNTRIES—

NO, WE
MUST BE
RESO-
LUTE!



NOTHING'S
CHANGED
FROM
1,000 YEARS
AGO.

EVEN
2,000 YEARS
AGO...
I GUESS
PULLING AT
POWER AND
PUSHING AT
RESPONSIBILITY
IS JUST THE
NATURE OF
POLITICS.

FIRSTLY,
WHAT
IS THAT
WEAPON?

YOU!
WHAT
IS IT
USING
TO
ATTACK
US?

...ITS
ABILITIES
SEEM
BEYOND
COMPRE-
HENSION!

WHAM

FROM THE
POWER OF ITS
MAIN CANNON,
TO THE FACT
THAT IT CAME
FROM DEEP
UNDER-
GROUND...

I CAN
ONLY
SPECU-
LATE, BUT
IF YOU'LL
ALLOW
ME...

OH, THAT'S
A RELIEF.
I THOUGHT
YOU'D
FORGOTTEN
ABOUT ME.

SPIT
IT OUT!
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
YOU
WERE
HIRED
FOR?

WHO
ELSE
WOULD
I BE
TALKING
TO?!

YOU'RE
TALKING
TO ME?

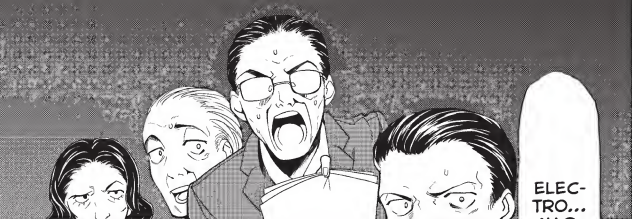


HMM...
I WONDER HOW
MANY OF THESE
PEOPLE KNOW
THE TRUTH?



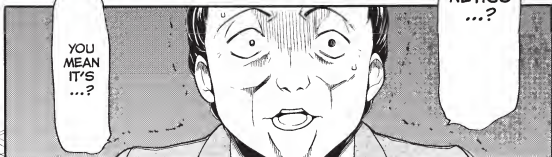
JUST TO
MAKE IT
CLEAR,
SIR, I WAS
HIRED AS A
CONSULTANT
ON CLOCK-
WORK.

I AM
NOT AN
EXPERT ON
ELECTRO-
MAGNETICS.



ELEC-
TRO...
MAG-
NETICS
...?

YOU
MEAN
IT'S
...?



I READ
THE REPORT
CAREFULLY,
AND THAT
WAS THE
ONLY
POSSIBLE
CONCLUSION.

HOW
WOULD
WE HAVE
KNOWN
THAT?!

OH?
YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW?

THAT'S
WHY
AKIHABARA
HAS GONE
OUT OF
SERVICE...

BUT
ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC
TECHNOLOGY
WOULD
VIOLATE
THE I.S.S.
AGREEMENT,
WOULDN'T IT?

IS
THIS
RELI-
ABLE
INTEL
?







...AND I
WAS HIRED
TO GIVE MY
OPINION.

EXCUSE
ME.

WHAT I
DO KNOW
IS THAT
THE THREAT
RIGHT
BENEATH
US IS REAL...

THAT IS
ALL.



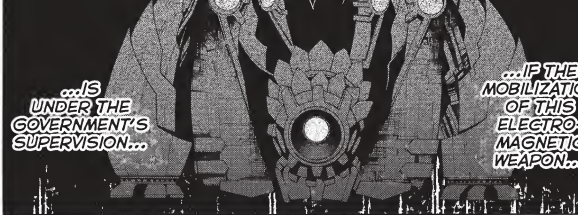
THE REAL
QUESTION
IS...

THERE'S NO
COUNTRY
IN THE
WORLD SO
FASTIDIOUS
AS TO
TAKE THAT
AGREEMENT
SERIOUSLY.



A LOT OF
COUNTRIES
HAVE 'EM
ALREADY.

WELL,
I KNOW
THEY'RE
NOT
UNIQUE.



**...IS
UNDER THE
GOVERNMENT'S
SUPERVISION...**

**...IF THE
MOBILIZATION
OF THIS
ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC
WEAPON...**



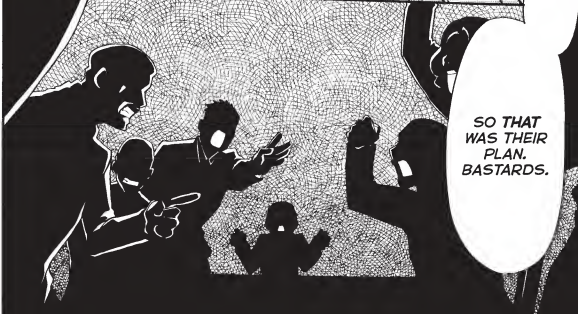
**...BUT IF
PEOPLE FIND
OUT THEY
WERE DOING
THIS KIND OF
RESEARCH...**

**I DON'T
KNOW WHO
EXACTLY
DEVELOPED
IT...**

**...SOONER
OR LATER, THE
GOVERNMENT
WILL FALL
APART.**



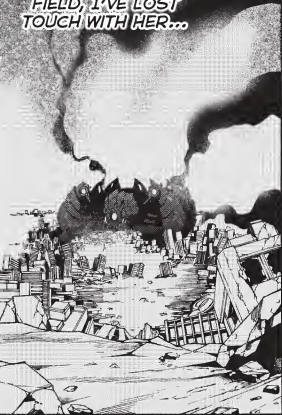
OH.



**SO THAT
WAS THEIR
PLAN.
BASTARDS.**

**SUPERWEAPON
ASIDE, WE
WEREN'T
PLANNING ON
AKIHABARA
GETTING SHUT
DOWN.**

**THANKS TO THE
ELECTROMAGNETIC
FIELD, I'VE LOST
TOUCH WITH HER...**



**I WONDER
IF MEISTER
MARIE IS
OKAY...**

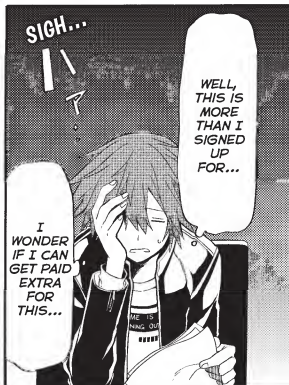


**SHOULD I
ASSUME
THE
MISSION
WAS A
FAILURE,
THEN...?**





PLEASE,
BE SAFE...



SIGH...

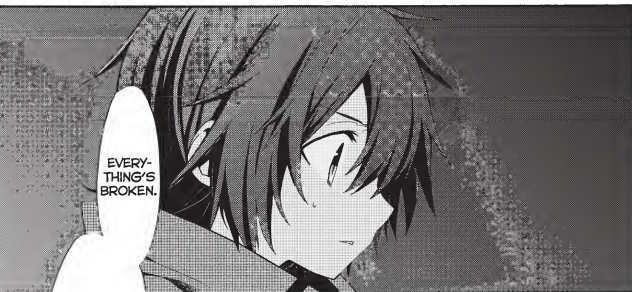
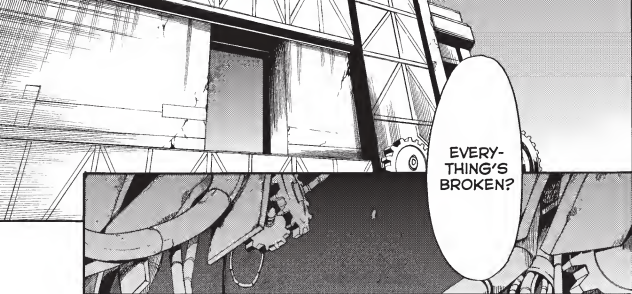
WELL,
THIS IS
MORE
THAN I
SIGNED
UP
FOR...

I
WONDER
IF I CAN
GET PAID
EXTRA
FOR
THIS...



AH, BUT
THAT'S
BESIDE
THE
POINT
RIGHT
NOW...

MEISTER
MARIE.



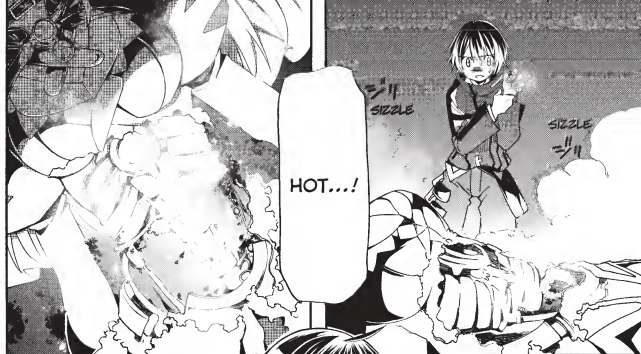




RYUZU!

FSHHH

OWWW!





THE
HELL...
DO YOU
MEAN?



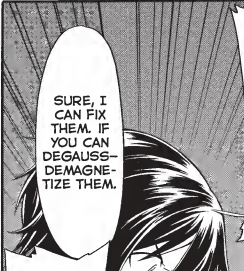
HAVE
YOU BEEN
LISTENING
TO ME? I
TOLD YOU
ALREADY.
EVERY-
THING'S
BROKEN.



SHE WAS
UNDER
HIGH HEAT
FOR A LONG
TIME. HER
ABDOMINAL
PARTS
MELTED.



DO
WHAT?



SURE, I
CAN FIX
THEM. IF
YOU CAN
DEGAUSS-
DEMAGNE-
TIZE THEM.



WE GOTTA
FIX IT.
YOU CAN
FIX IT,
RIGHT?



SO...

TCH.

AKI-
HABARA
JUST
GOT
TOTALED
BY AN
E.M.P.!



THEN
WHAT
ARE YOU
SITTING
AROUND
FOR?
LET'S-

...JUST
HOW DO YOU
SUGGEST WE
GET OUT OF
THIS ROOM,
AND WHERE
DO YOU
SUGGEST
WE FIND A
DEGAUSSER?!



I'M
TELLING
YOU, WE
CAN'T
EVEN
GET OUT
OF THIS
ROOM...





THERE
WE GO.



THIS IS,
WHAT,
THE EIGHTH
FLOOR?

OKAY,
THEN LET'S
SEE IF WE CAN
GET A CABLE
DOWN THERE.
WRAP SOME
CLOTH.



!



I'M
GETTING
RYUZU
OUT! STAY
OUT OF
OUR WAY!

MARIE,
YOU GO
AHEAD
AND ROT
AWAY THE
REST OF
YOUR LIFE
HERE!

...



FSHHH

AAA-
GGH
!!!

SHUT
UP!

YOU
GOOD-
FOR-
NOTHING!
GO SIT IN
A CORNER!



HEY,
YOU...
WAIT!



ARE YOU
INSANE?!



I
DUNNO,
BUT...

...I CAN'T
LEAVE
RYUZU
LIKE
THIS!



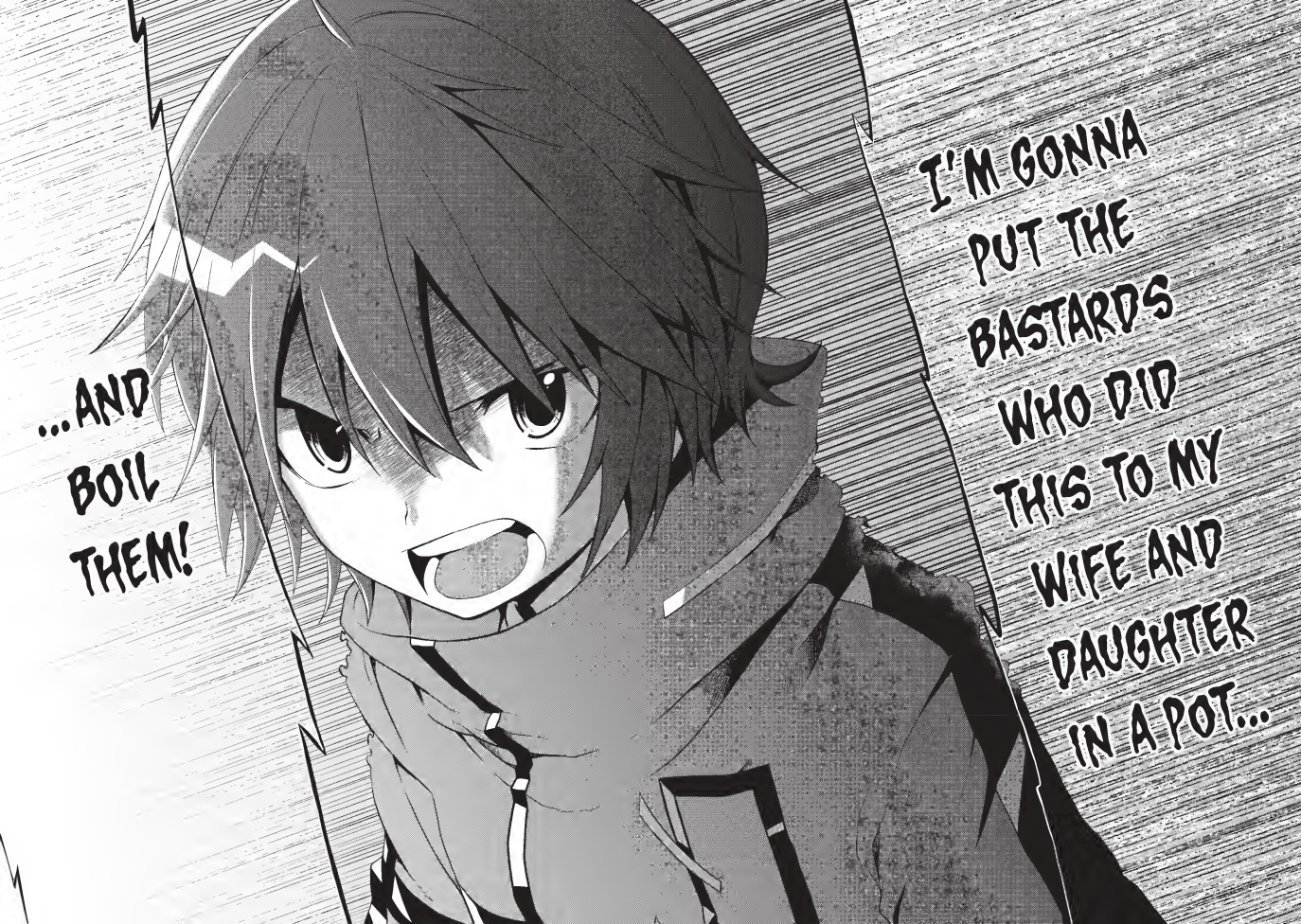
AND
THEN-

CAN'T
YOU SEE?
I'M
GETTING
OUTTA
HERE SO
I CAN FIND
YOUR
DEGAUSSER
OR WHAT-
EVER AND
FIX EVERY-
ONE!



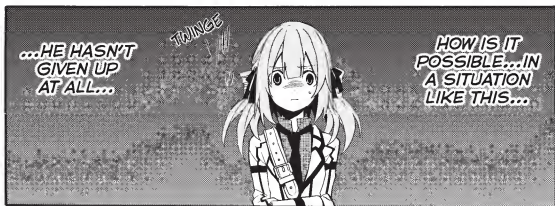
BUT...
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?
LOOK
AT YOUR
HANDS...





...AND
BOIL
THEM!

I'M GONNA
PUT THE
BASTARDS
WHO DID
THIS TO MY
WIFE AND
DAUGHTER
IN A POT...



NAOTO
JUST FLAILS
WITHOUT
THINKING.

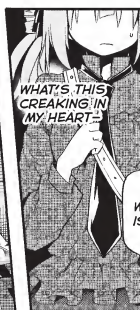
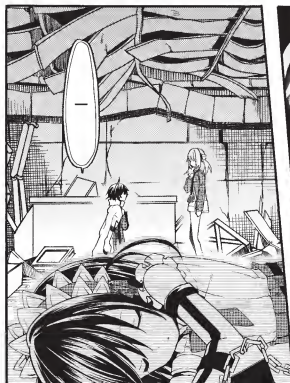
BUT THIS
TIME, HE'S
RIGHT, AND
I SHOULD
LET HIM
PULL ME
ALONG.

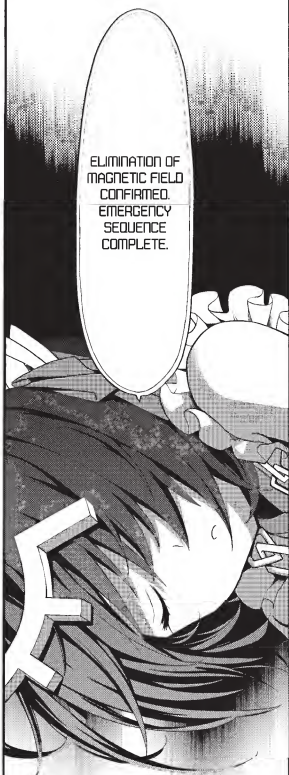


IT'S IN
GRID UENO.
LET'S GO.

MEISTER
KONRAD AND
HIS GUYS
ARRANGED AN
EMERGENCY
MEETING
PLACE
WITH ME
BEFOREHAND.









ANCHOR!

THAT
WAS...

...SCARY.

CLOCKWORK
PLANET

**CLOCKWORK
PLANET**

THAT
WAS...

...SCARY.

ANCHOR!



I ALMOST
HAD A
HEART
ATTACK!
DAMMIT!



AAAAAH!
YOU'RE
ALL RIGHT,
ANCHOR?!





IS IT MY
FAULT?

HAVE I...
BEEN
A BAD
GIRL?

AND
RYUZU'S ALL
RIGHT, TOO.
SERIOUSLY,
I WAS ABOUT
TO FAINT.



YOU
ALMOST
DIED
BECAUSE
OF ME...
BUT...
...YOU
DIDN'T DIE
BECAUSE
OF ME?

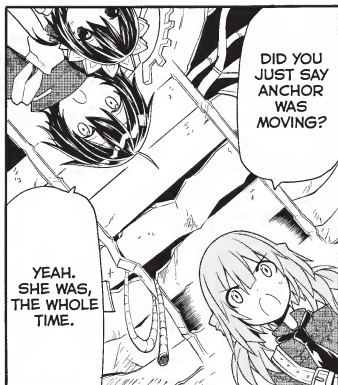
NAH,
YOU'RE
A
GREAT
GIRL!
IF YOU
HADN'T
BEEN
MOVING,
I MIGHT'VE
SERIOUSLY
THOUGHT
ABOUT
KILLING
MYSELF!



NAOTO!

AND
WHAT DID
THAT FOOL
JUST SAY?

WHAT'S GOING
ON? ANCHOR
WITHSTOOD
THE E.M.P.?





HEATING?

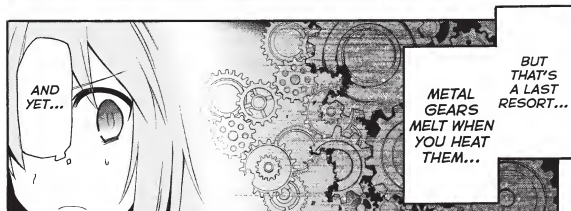
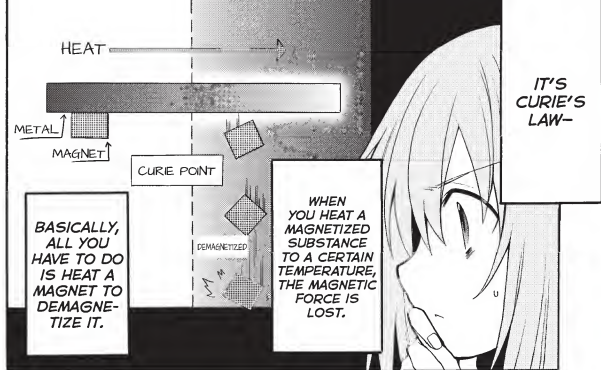
...HEATING...
SEQUENCE...?
I THINK IT'S
CALLED...

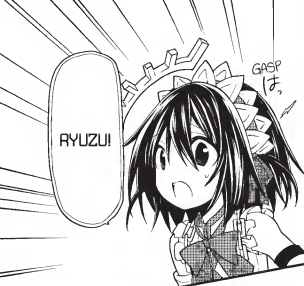
um...
SHE
ENTERED
HER EMER-
GENCY
...



...FOR THERMAL
DEMAGNETIZATION
?!

YOU MEAN
LIKE USING
THE CURIE
POINT...





RYUZUI!

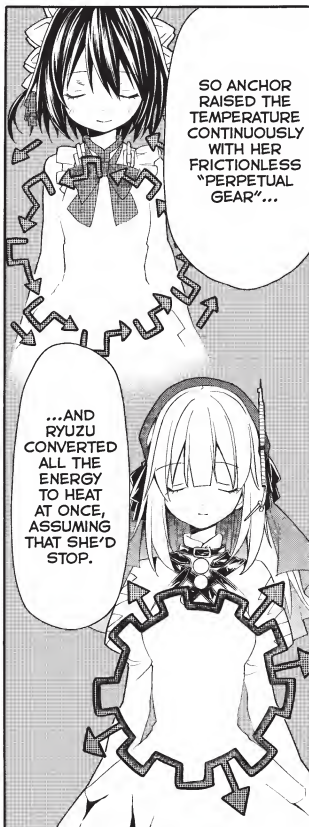
GASP
は、



NO!

RYUZU CAN'T
COOL HER—

DON'T
WORRY,
ANCHOR!



SO ANCHOR
RAISED THE
TEMPERATURE
CONTINUOUSLY
WITH HER
FRICTIONLESS
"PERPETUAL
GEAR"...

...AND
RYUZU
CONVERTED
ALL THE
ENERGY
TO HEAT
AT ONCE,
ASSUMING
THAT SHE'D
STOP.



BUT...
YOU GOT
BURNED.

DOESN'T
IT HURT?

IT CRUMBLE
T.T



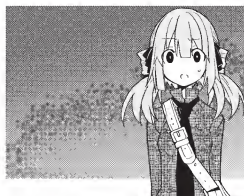
DADDY...

YOU'RE
AMAZING.

HEH
Zz



I KIND
OF HAD A
FEELING, SO
I PUT RYUZU
ON THE COLD
FLOOR!



ALL IN A
DAY'S WORK
TAKING
CARE OF MY
DAUGHTER!

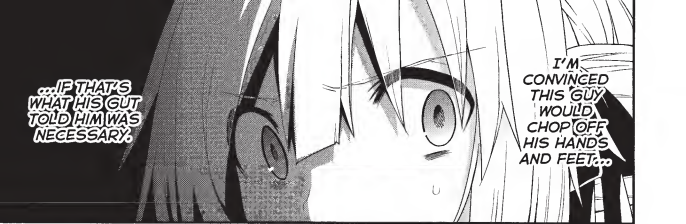
AH HA
HA!



AND HE JUST
"KIND OF HAD
A FEELING"?
SO HE LET
HIMSELF GET
SEVERELY
BURNED TO
MOVE RYUZU
FROM THE
MELTED
FLOOR?



IT IS
HOW DID PRETTY
NAOTO AMAZING
KNOW
FROM THE
START
THAT
RYUZU AND
ANCHOR
WERE
OKAY?



...IF THAT'S
WHAT HIS GUT
TOLD HIM WAS
NECESSARY.

I'M
CONVINCED
THIS GUY
WOULD
CHOP OFF
HIS HANDS
AND FEET...

NAOTO...



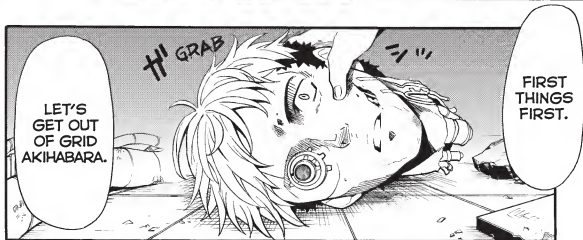
...YOU
ARE SO
FAR FROM
NORMAL.



KH...

MEAN-
WHILE
...

LOOK
AT ME.



LET'S
GET OUT
OF GRID
AKIHABARA.

!! GRAB

FIRST
THINGS
FIRST.



AND
WAIT FOR
MEISTER
KONRAD.



TO
UENO!



F I
S H H H

I MEAN,
I'LL ADMIT
IT'S KINDA
DISTRACTING
HAVING
ALL THIS
OBSCENE
FILTH
AROUND...

WHAT
CAN YOU
DO?
THIS IS
YOUR
MEETING
PLACE
WITH THAT
KONRAD
GUY,
RIGHT?

WHY DO I
HAVE TO
WORK IN
SUCH A
DISGUSTING
SHOP?

GOD,
WHAT
THE
HELL?!

I LOST
CONSCIOUSNESS
IN AKIHABARA,
RIGHT?

WHAT? A
WORKSHOP?
A MEETING
PLACE?

OH HH,
SO MANY
GLAMOROUS
WOMEN
WITH HIGH
SPECS...
I CAN'T
HELP BUT
GET A LITTLE
DISTRACTED
...

HMPH!
A!
IT'S
OBVIOUS
YOU LIKE
IT, YOU
PERVERTED
FREAK.

HUH. SO
WE'RE ALL IN
UENO NOW.

BUT WE
MADE IT TO
UENO SAFE
AND SOUND.
STOP
GRIPING.

HEY! おい

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
INSPECTING
IT LIKE
THAT,
PERVERT
?!

DADDY
WILL
TAKE
IT FOR
YOU!

...

YOU'RE
NOT OLD
ENOUGH FOR
THAT YET,
ANCHOR!
I MEAN, YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO WORRY
ABOUT THIS!

HEY!
ANCHOR!
THAT'S
DIRTY!
WHERE'D
YOU GET
THAT?!

A A A H !

DADDY.
DADDY.

WHAT'S
THIS?

SLAP
10
11

HMM
...

DAMN,
THESE KIDS
WON'T
SHUT UP...

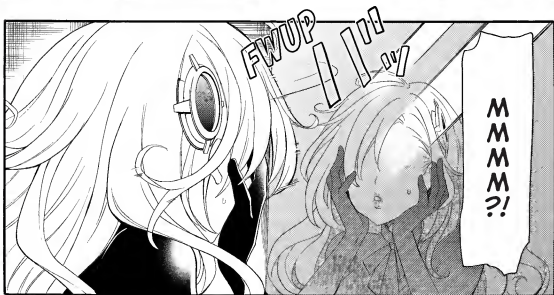
YOU'RE
A KID,
TOO!

YEAH!

IT'S TRUE,
THIS COULD
BE A BAD
INFLUENCE ON
ANCHOR! NOT
APPROPRIATE
FOR KIDS!

OW...
11
12
13







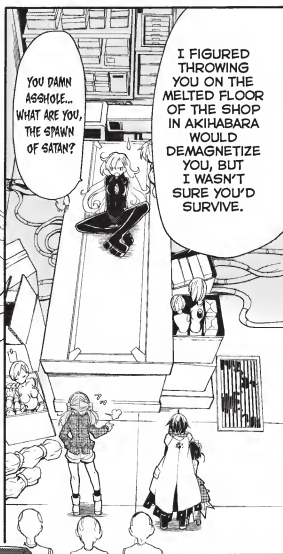
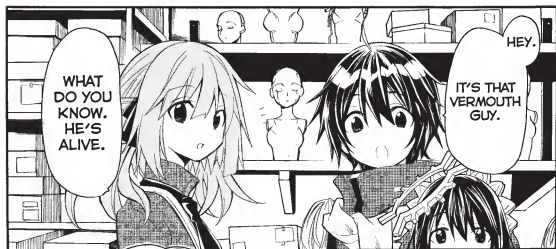
**THE
HELL**

...

**...IS
THIS?!**



Clock 27: Start





WELL,
SURE,
BUT WHY
A FEMALE
BODY?

ARE YOU
SOME
KIND OF
WEIRDO?

BOING 3...

OH,
DON'T YOU
REMEMBER?
I TOLD YOU
I'D EXPLOIT
THE CRAP
OUT OF
YOU.

YOU
GOTTA
ADMIT,
IT'S
BETTER
THAN
NOT
HAVING
A BODY.



BUT WHAT'S
THE STORY
WITH THIS
WORKSHOP?
I HEARD YOU
SAYING IT WAS
YOUR MEETING
PLACE IN
UENO OR
SOMETHING,
BUT...

NO MATTER
HOW CUTE
YOU MAKE
HIM LOOK,
AS LONG AS
HE'S STILL
THE SAME
GUY INSIDE,
EVEN I
DON'T CARE.

HEY,
MARIE.

IT WAS THE
ONLY BODY
AVAILABLE!

DON'T
LUMP ME IN
WITH THIS
FREAK, ALL
RIGHT?!

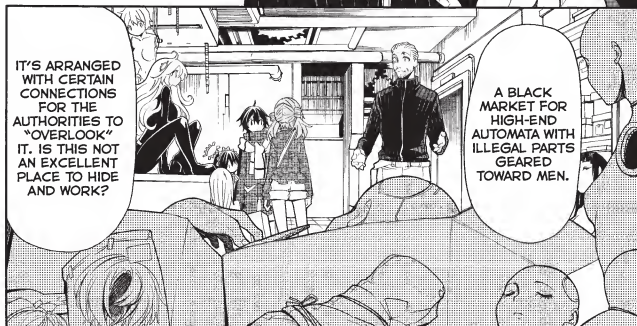


LET ME
EXPLAIN.



...STRIP?

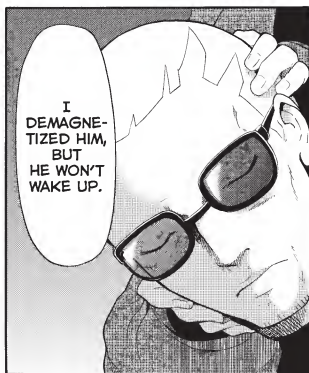
THIS IS
STRIP THE
UENO, IN THE
UNDERGROUND
OF UENO.



IT'S ARRANGED
WITH CERTAIN
CONNECTIONS
FOR THE
AUTHORITIES TO
"OVERLOOK"
IT. IS THIS NOT
AN EXCELLENT
PLACE TO HIDE
AND WORK?

A BLACK
MARKET FOR
HIGH-END
AUTOMATA WITH
ILLEGAL PARTS
GEARED
TOWARD MEN.







I JUST
NEED THE
RIGHT
PARTS.
I'LL FIX
HIM!
YOU'LL
SEE!

HALTER
WON'T
DIE!



HE
"WON'T
WAKE
UP"?
IS HIS
BRAIN
OKAY?

HE'S
NOT
DEAD,
RIGHT?



NGHYARRUH?

PET
PET



HMM.

SPEAKING
OF WHICH,
WHY DOES
THE MOST
IRRELEVANT
GUY HAVE TO
COME BACK
TO LIFE
FIRST?

HOPE WE
FIND THE
PARTS
SOON...

STARE...



YOU KNOW HE'S THAT GEEZER, RIGHT?



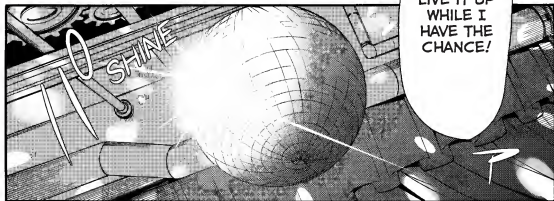
IT-IT-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

I TOTALLY DON'T THINK THIS IS KIND OF NICE!

WHAT DO YA THINK?
YOU STILL THINK I'M "IRRELEVANT," HUH?



HEY, THIS BODY AIN'T BAD.



MIGHT AS WELL LIVE IT UP WHILE I HAVE THE CHANCE!



gonna
borrow
your
stage,
okay,
old man?

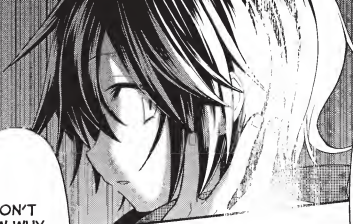


no, it
won't.



you know
that
massive
weapon
might get
moving
anytime?!

we do
not
have
time to
watch
you
strip!



I DON'T
KNOW WHY,
BUT IT'S
CONSUMING
ABOUT 10
PERCENT OF
ITS ENERGY
AS IT WINDS
BACK UP.

IT USED
UP ALL ITS
ENERGY
FOR THE
E.M.P. IN
AKIHABARA.

WE HAVE...
ABOUT 66
AND A HALF
HOURS UNTIL
IT GETS ALL
THE WAY
BACK. IT'S
NOT DOING
ANYTHING
UNTIL THEN.





YOU'RE
PRETTY
CLEVER,
KID!

HAAA
HA HA
HA!



GOT A
SICK MIND
FOR THAT
CUTE
FACE.

1/1 TAP



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

"JUST
GONNA
WAIT"?



SO WE
CAN
ASSUME
...

...THEY'RE
JUST
GONNA
WAIT.



IT'S
SOME
RULE-
BREAKING
B.S., BUT
STILL, THE
GAME'S
OVER.

IT'S AS IF
A QUEEN
SUDDENLY
ROSE FROM
THE BOARD
RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
THE KING.

LOOK AT HOW
MANY TREATIES
THAT THING'S
GOTTA VIOLATE,
AND IF IT CAME
FROM JAPAN,
THAT MEANS
THE JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT'S
IN BIG TROUBLE.

IT'S
CHECK-
MATE.



WHAT-ARE
YOU SAYING
IT CAME FROM
THE GROUND
JUST TO
MAKE THE
GOVERNMENT
SELF-
DESTRUCT?!

WHAT ARE
THESE
GUYS
TALKING
ABOUT?
HOW DO
THEY
KNOW
THIS?!



THERE'S
SOMETHING
ELSE?



FOR
NOW.

BUT
THEY'RE
NOT
GONNA BE
SATISFIED
WITH THAT.



YEAH,
I MEAN, IT
MUST HAVE A
BATTERY OR
GENERATOR
OR SOME-
THING...

BUT IT
NEEDS
ENERGY
TO WORK,
RIGHT?

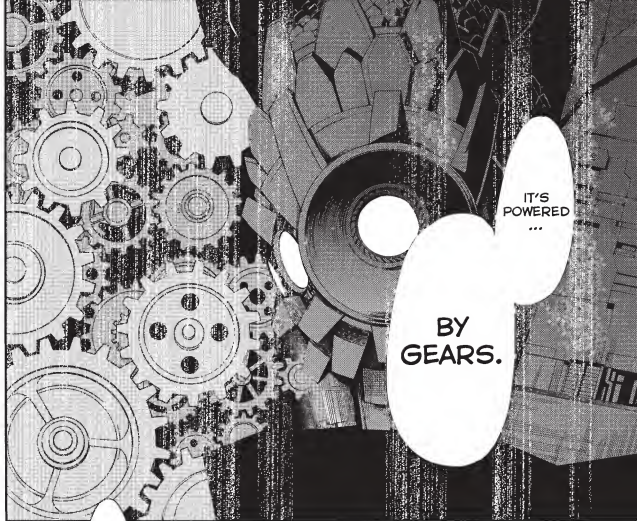
I DON'T
KNOW MUCH
ABOUT
ELECTRO-
MAGNETICS,

I SAID
IT'S NOT
DOING
ANYTHING.

THE
THING IS,
IT CAN'T
DO
ANYTHING.



THEN
THAT
SETTLES
IT.



IT'S
POWERED
...

BY
GEARS.



WHAT?



THEY CALL IT
COMPOSITE
TECHNOLOGY,
AIMING TO
FUSE CLOCK-
WORK AND
ELECTRO-
MAGNETICS.



...WE
SAW THE
SIGNATURES
OF THE
PRIME
MINISTER
AND CHIEF
CABINET
SECRETARY
OF THE
TIME.

WHEN
MY TEAM
FOUND THE
PLANS
FOR THE
PROJECT
...

HILARIOUS,
HUH?!

IF THAT
THING
GETS
MOVING
AGAIN...

THAT...
IS NOT
FUNNY.



WHAT
DO THEY
PLAN TO
DO...

...ONCE
IT'S
WOUND
BACK
UP?



THAT'S
WHAT
THEY'RE
CALLING IT
OFFICIALLY.

"COMPOSITE-
ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC
STRATEGIC
MOBILE WEAPON
YATSUKAHAGI."



YOU
HAVE TO
ASK?
SHELTERED
PRINCESS.

THIS ISN'T
SOME CIVILIAN
ACT OF
INDISCRIMINATE
TERRORISTIC
CARNAGE.

IT'S A
POWER
STRUGGLE
IN THE INNER
CIRCLE.
IT'S A COUP
D'ÉTAT.

AND THEN
YOU JUST
WONDER WHAT
THEY'RE GONNA
DO NEXT.

THEY'RE
GONNA WAIT
FOR THE
ADMINISTRATION
TO BREAK
DOWN.



WHAT DO
WE DO?

A SCENE OF
POWERFUL
NATIONS
STARING
EACH OTHER
DOWN.

A
GOVERN-
MENT
ON THE
VERGE
OF COL-
LAPSE.

A SUPER-
WEAPON
THAT
THREATENS
THE WORLD
ORDER BY
ITS VERY
EXISTENCE.

I
CAN'T.
I
CAN'T.

THE ONLY
ANSWER I
CAN FIND
IS THIS:

I
CAN'T
DO
ANY-
THING.

IF I COULD
JUST GET
MY EYES
FOCUSED
ON THE
FUTURE
LIKE
NAOTO...

WHAT CAN
WANNABE
TERRORISTS
LIKE US
DO?

IF I
COULD
JUST
FIND
THE
RIGHT
ANSWER
...







YOU THINK A
TERRORIST
THEY'RE
PROBABLY
ASKING
FOR DEAD-
OR-ALIVE
RIGHT NOW
SHOULD BE
STROLLING
AROUND
SHOPPING?

ARE YOUR
HEART AND
NERVES
MADE OF
SUPER-
ALLOY?



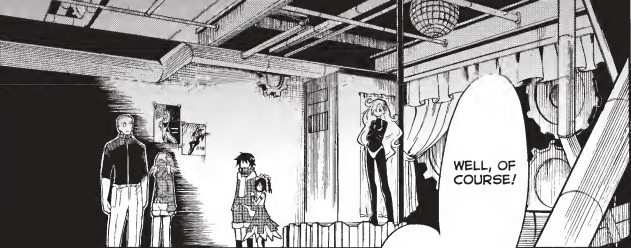




WE'RE
GONNA
DO
WHAT
WE
WANT!

CLOCKWORK
PLANET

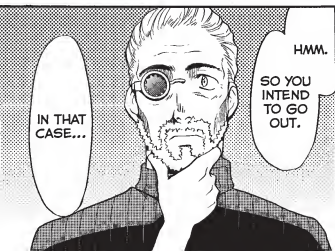
CLOCKWORK
PLANET



WELL, OF COURSE!



WE'RE
GONNA DO
WHAT WE
WANT!



HMM.

IN THAT
CASE...

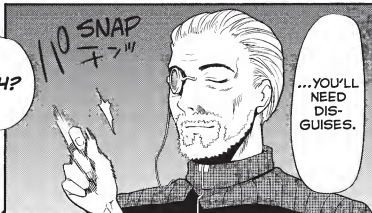
SO YOU
INTEND
TO GO
OUT.



TMP HI/TMP HI HI/TMP HI/TMP HI/TMP

WHAM

HUH?



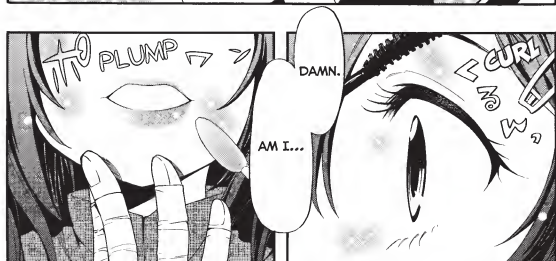
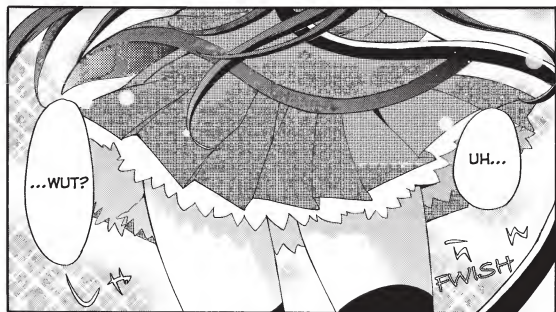
SNAP

...YOU'LL NEED DIS-GUISES.



I CAN MAKE ANYONE CUTE! LET ME AT 'EM! ♪

IS THAT MY CUE, MEISTER KONRAD?!



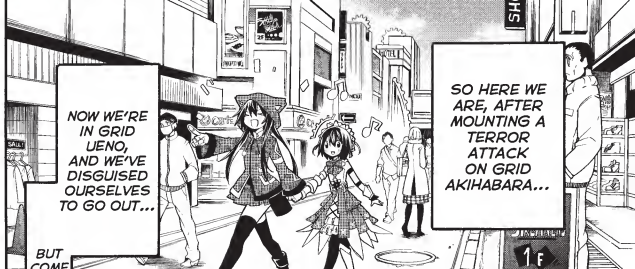


DADDY...

YOU'RE
SO CUTE!

...CUTE OR
WHAT?
♥

 Clock 28: Probe



NOW WE'RE
IN GRID
JENO,
AND WE'VE
DISGUISED
OURSELVES
TO GO OUT...

SO HERE WE
ARE, AFTER
MOUNTING A
TERROR
ATTACK
ON GRID
AKIHABARA...

BUT
COME
ON...



CAN I
ASK YOU A
QUESTION?

HEY,
NAOTO...
I MEAN,
NAOKO...



HEH
HEH
HEH
...

-THAT'S
WHAT YOU
WANT TO
DO RIGHT
NOW?

GOING
SHOPPING
WITH YOUR
DOLL-

WOOHOO!



THAT'S
RIGHT!

EVERY-
THING
ANCHOR'S
ALWAYS
WANTED
TO DO
AND NEVER
COULD—

NOW
IS THE
TIME!

WITH
THESE
HANDS,
I WILL
MAKE
IT ALL A
REALITY!



BOOM
—W

...WATCH ME
MAKE ANCHOR
SMILE!
YEAHHH!



WHAT
ELSE
WOULD
I DO?!



BUT,
THEN,
LOOK
AT THE
CROWD.





MUST'VE
BEEN
A GAG
ORDER.

IT'S LIKE
EVERYTHING
THAT
HAPPENED
LAST NIGHT
WAS JUST A
BAD DREAM.

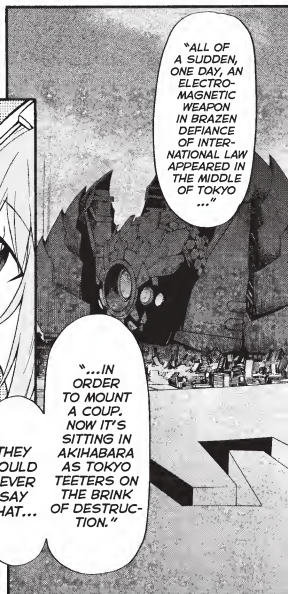


I GUESS
YOU HAVE
TO MUZZLE
THE PRESS
AT A TIME
LIKE THIS.

OKAY,
ANCHOR!
YOU TELL
ME WHERE
YOU WANT
TO GO!



THEY
COULD
NEVER
SAY
THAT...



"ALL OF
A SUDDEN,
ONE DAY, AN
ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC
WEAPON
IN BRAZEN
DEFIANCE
OF INTER-
NATIONAL LAW
APPEARED IN
THE MIDDLE
OF TOKYO
..."

"...IN
ORDER
TO MOUNT
A COUP.
NOW IT'S
SITTING IN
AKIHABARA
AS TOKYO
TEETERS ON
THE BRINK
OF DESTRUCTION."



SAY
ANYTHING
YOU WANT,
ANCHOR!

um...

OH!
IT
DOESN'T
HAVE
TO BE A
PLACE!
IS THERE
ANYTHING
YOU
WANNA
DO?



WHAT?

YOU
DON'T
WANT
CLOTHES?

OH,
YEAH,
THAT'S
CUTE!

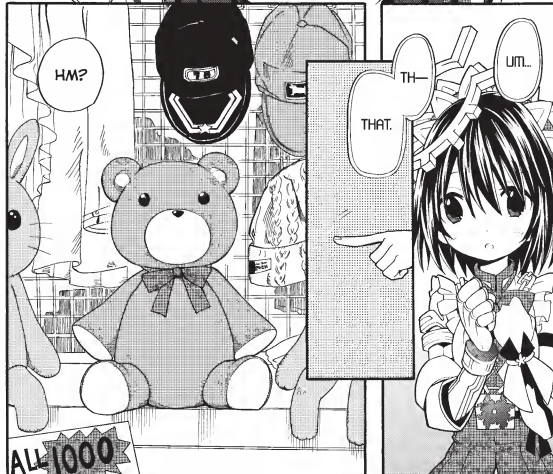
YOU
LOOK SO
ANGELIC,
DADDY'S
GONNA
DIE AND
GO TO
HEAVEN...

THAT'S
RIGHT!
LET'S GO
CHECK
OUT SOME
CLOTHES!

NIMAL LAI





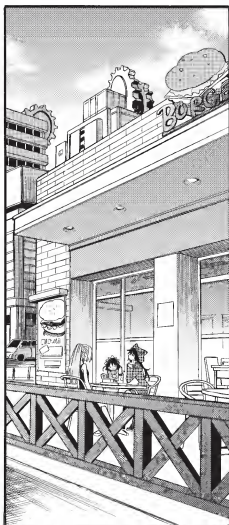
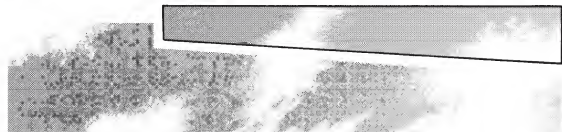






THANK...

YOU.





WHAT KIND
OF OVER-
POWERED
PROTAGANIST
ARE THEY
TALKING
ABOUT?

EH
HEH
HEH



GOTTA
LAY IT ON
THICKER
THAN
THAT FOR
APPEAR-
ANCE'S
SAKE.

I MEAN, NO
ONE'S GONNA
BELIEVE THAT
SOME AVERAGE
HIGH SCHOOL
KID WAS
RESPONSIBLE
FOR A MAJOR
TERROR
INCIDENT,
RIGHT?

SHNK
TAT

THE MAN
NEAR HIM
IS VAINNEY
HALTER...

HUH.

AN
ARMED
GROUP
CAUSING
TROUBLE
IN
EUROPE.

MOSTLY
IN CROSS-
BORDER
FRAUD.
SOME
SMALL
GROUP.

BUT
YOU'RE
LAYING
IT ON
TOO THICK.
WHO
ARE
LES
AVEN-
TURI-
ERS?

OH!
THEY
HAVE
SOME
ACTUAL
FACTS,
TOO.

RECORDS
SHOW HIM
PARTICIPATING
IN A NUMBER OF
INTERNATIONAL
CONFLICTS.

...A CYBORG
MERCENARY
OF UNKNOWN
AGE.

THEY'RE
SHOWING
MOMMY
AND BIG SIS,
TOO!

WHO
ARE YOU
CALLING
A BOMB?

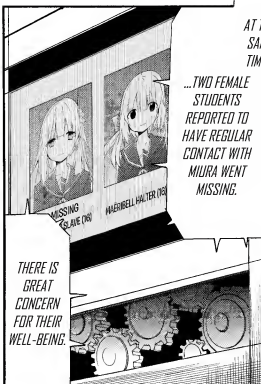
HUH! WELL,
I GUESS
IT MAKES
SENSE.
GIVEN THAT
HE'S
GUARDING
A BOMB
LIKE YOU.



THE
WORLD
IS SO
UNFAIR
!

WHAT?

THEY'RE
PORTRAYING
THE RING-
LEADER AS
A VICTIM
AND ME AND
HALTER AS
VICIOUS
INTERNATIONAL
CRIMINALS!



AT THE
SAME
TIME...

...TWO FEMALE
STUDENTS
REPORTED TO
HAVE REGULAR
CONTACT WITH
MIURA WENT
MISSING.

THERE IS
GREAT
CONCERN
FOR THEIR
WELL-BEING.



GLOOM
グロム

THIS
DEFIES
UNDER-
STAND-
ING.

YOU EVER
HEARD OF
KARMA?





OUR
TERROR
ATTACK
GOT THE
PEOPLE
OUT SO
THEY
WEREN'T
HURT
BY THE
WEAPON...

...IN THAT
SENSE, IT
WASN'T IN
VAIN...



I JUST
CAN'T...

WE JUST
END UP
HELPING
THE PLOT
OF THE
GRID SHIGA
ARMED
FORCES...

...BUT NOW
IT'S COMING
[BACK]
AGAINST US
AS IT GIVES
COVER TO THE
GOVERNMENT.

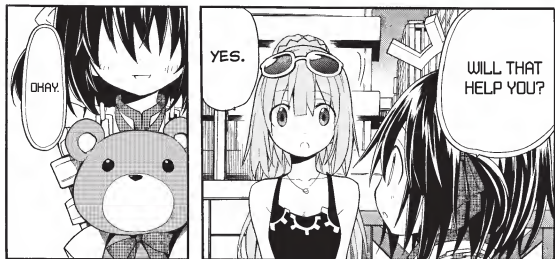
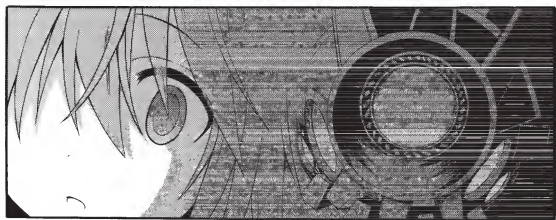
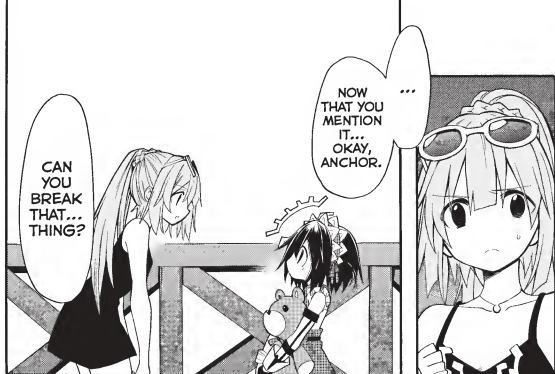




CRYING?

ME?





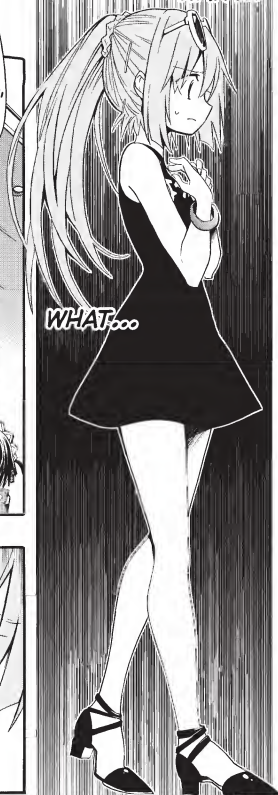


HEY, NAOTO,

WHAT'S ANCHOR
...



UH.



WAIT...

WHAT...



DADDY
WILL
HELP
YOU.

DON'T
CRY.



UH—
MARIE.

...YOU
KNOW
...

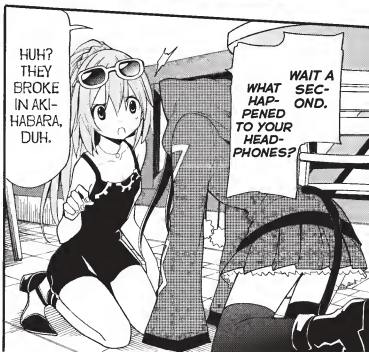
HEY,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

I NEED
SOMETHING FOR
A HEADACHE.
CAN YOU GET ME
SOMETHING?
ANYTHING?



I
FORGOT...

IF YOU
HAVE
TIME TO
PAMPER
YOUR
DOLL,
BUY WHAT
YOU NEED
FIRST!



HUH?
THEY
BROKE
IN AKI-
HABARA,
DUH.

WAIT A
SEC-
OND.
WHAT
HAP-
PENED
TO YOUR
HEAD-
PHONES?



BUT EVEN
SO...

IT'S WEIRD
HOW SPENT
HE LOOKS.

CONSIDERING
HOW GOOD
NAOTO'S EARS
ARE, A WORLD
WITHOUT
100 PERCENT
NOISE-
BLOCKING
HEADPHONES
IS TOO NOISY
FOR HIM...



FIND
IT?
FIND
WHAT?

NOT YET...
I'LL GET
THEM AFTER
I FIND IT.
UNTIL
THEN,
I'M
GOOD.



OBVIOUS-
LY...

**A WAY
TO KICK
THE
CRAP
OUT
OF THE
JERKS
WHO
DID
THAT TO
RYUZU!**

**...A
WAY
TO
WIN!**



NAOTO'S
...

WE'RE
GONNA DO
WHAT WE
WANT!

BEEN
BEARING
THE BURN
ON HIS
BACK AND
THAT PAIN
IN HIS
HEAD...

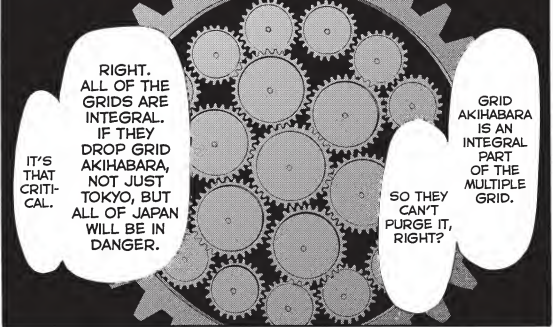


...THE
WHOLE
TIME...

...ALL
THIS
TIME...







IT'S
THAT
CRITI-
CAL.

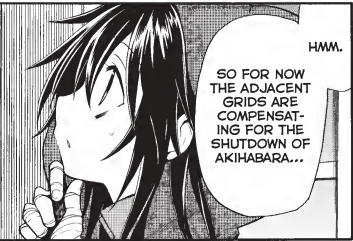
RIGHT.
ALL OF THE
GRIDS ARE
INTEGRAL.
IF THEY
DROP GRID
AKIHABARA,
NOT JUST
TOKYO, BUT
ALL OF JAPAN
WILL BE IN
DANGER.

SO THEY
CAN'T
PURGE IT,
RIGHT?

GRID
AKIHABARA
IS AN
INTEGRAL
PART OF
THE
MULTIPLE
GRID.



YEAH.



WWW.

SO FOR NOW
THE ADJACENT
GRIDS ARE
COMPENSAT-
ING FOR THE
SHUTDOWN OF
AKIHABARA...

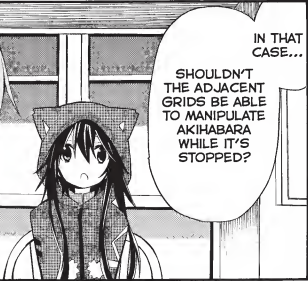


OKAY.

THIS
IS MY
IDEA.



LIKE
HOW?



IN THAT
CASE...

SHOULDN'T
THE ADJACENT
GRIDS BE ABLE
TO MANIPULATE
AKIHABARA
WHILE IT'S
STOPPED?



...AND
THEN WE
HEAT UP
OR BURN
THE GRID
TO
DEMAG-
NETIZE
IT,

ALONG
WITH
THAT
WEAPON.

WE FIND A
SYSTEM
BYPASS
SO WE CAN
MANIPULATE
AKIHABARA...

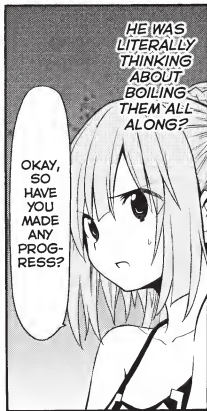
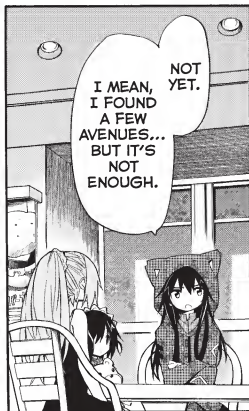


THIS
GUY...

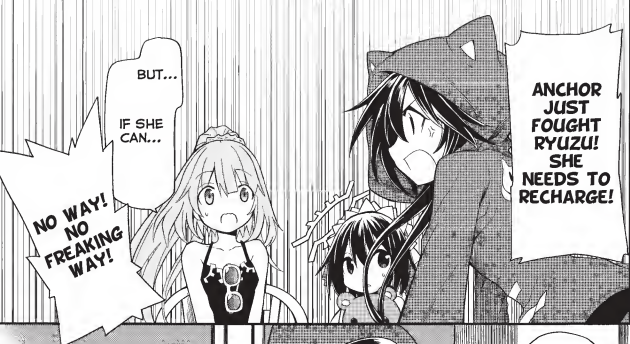
HE WASN'T
KIDDING...

...AND
BOIL
THEM!

I'M GONNA
PUT THE
JERKS
WHO DID
THIS TO MY
WIFE AND
DAUGHTER
IN A POT
...







BUT...

IF SHE
CAN...

NO WAY!
NO
FREAKING
WAY!

ANCHOR
JUST
FOUGHT
RYUZU!
SHE
NEEDS TO
RECHARGE!



WHERE'S
YOUR
PRIDE?

GOD,
YOU'RE,
LIKE,
GROSS!

YOU THINK
YOU CAN
TELL A
LITTLE KID
TO DO ALL
THE WORK
FOR YOU?



DON'T
FIGHT?

UH...
I'M...
SORRY.

WOW,
MARIE.

YOU
FOUND A
KID WHO'S
BEEN SAD
FOR A
THOUSAND
YEARS AND
MADE HER
SAD AGAIN.

CAN
YOU BE
ANY
MORE
SADISTIC
?

HEY!

IT'S
NOT—

OKAY,
FINE!
WHAT-
EVER!

I
GET IT!
YOU'RE
RIGHT.
I WAS
WRONG.

I'M
SORRY!



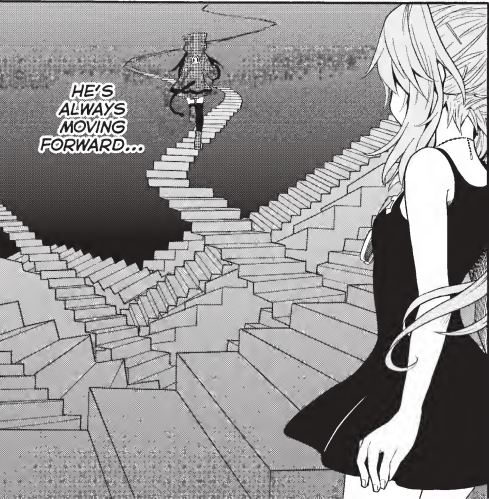
JEEZ,
YOU DON'T
GOTTA
PUT ON A
BIG SHOW
ABOUT
ADMITTING
THE TRUTH.

OKAY,
OKAY.
YOU
WERE
WRONG.
SEE YA.



OKAY,
ANCHOR,
LET'S DO
SOME
MORE
SHOPPING!

...



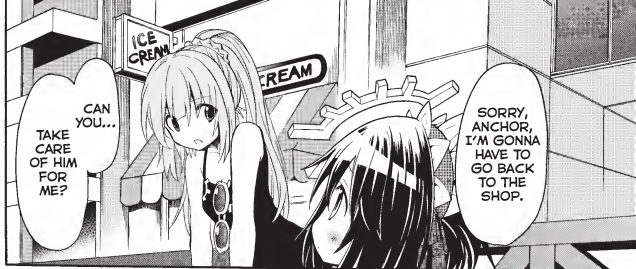
HE'S
ALWAYS
MOVING
FORWARD...

EVEN IN
THESE
CIRCUM-
STANCES,
NAOTO'S
BEEN
GATHERING
INFORMATION
WITH HIS
EARS,
TRYING TO
FIND A WAY
THROUGH.



WHAT
HAVE I
DONE?

AND
WHAT
ABOUT
ME...?



TAKE
CARE
OF HIM
FOR ME?

CAN
YOU...

SORRY,
ANCHOR,
I'M GONNA
HAVE TO
GO BACK
TO THE
SHOP.



IT'S
NOT AN
ORDER.

I'M JUST
ASKING
A FAVOR.



I'LL DO
WHAT YOU
ORDER,
MOMMY.



TAKE CARE
OF HIM—
TAKE CARE
OF NAOTO
FOR ME.



OKAY.

A young girl with short, dark hair and large eyes is holding a large teddy bear. She is wearing a dark dress with a white collar and a white bow. Behind her, several large, interlocking gears are visible. A speech bubble is to her left.

A
FAVOR.

EVEN
MORE
BINDING
THAN AN
ORDER.





BUT WHEN
THE TIME'S
RIGHT,
SHE'S A
GENIUS.
NOT LIKE
ME.

SOMETIMES
SHE CAN
GET FUSSY
OVER SILLY
STUFF
I DON'T
GET.



MORE
AMAZING
THAN
AMAZING?

YEAH!



BUT
DON'T
TELL HER
I SAID
THAT!



?



LET'S
DO OUR
THING!

WELL,

I'M
FEELING
BETTER
NOW.



ALL RIGHT!
WE'VE GOT A
WAYS TO GO.
LET'S RUN!

...OHAY!

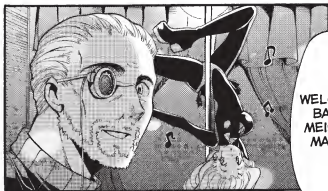
あ OH.

CRAP.
MY
HEAD...

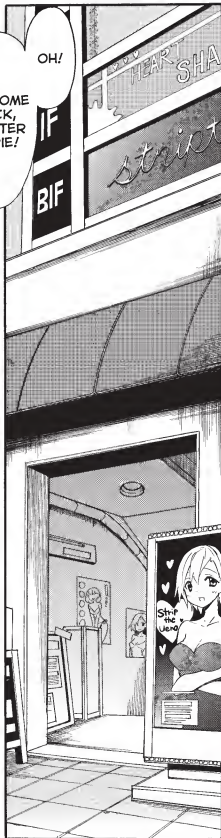
DADDY
..!

ARE
YOU
OKAY?

大丈夫？



OH!
WELCOME
BACK,
MEISTER
MARIE!

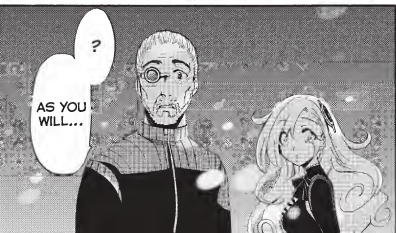


THANK
YOU,
MEISTER
KONRAD.
I'M
GOING TO
BORROW
THE SHOP
FOR A BIT.



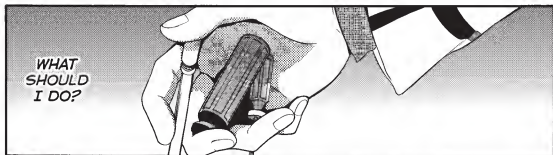
?

AS YOU
WILL....





WHAT
CAN I DO?



WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

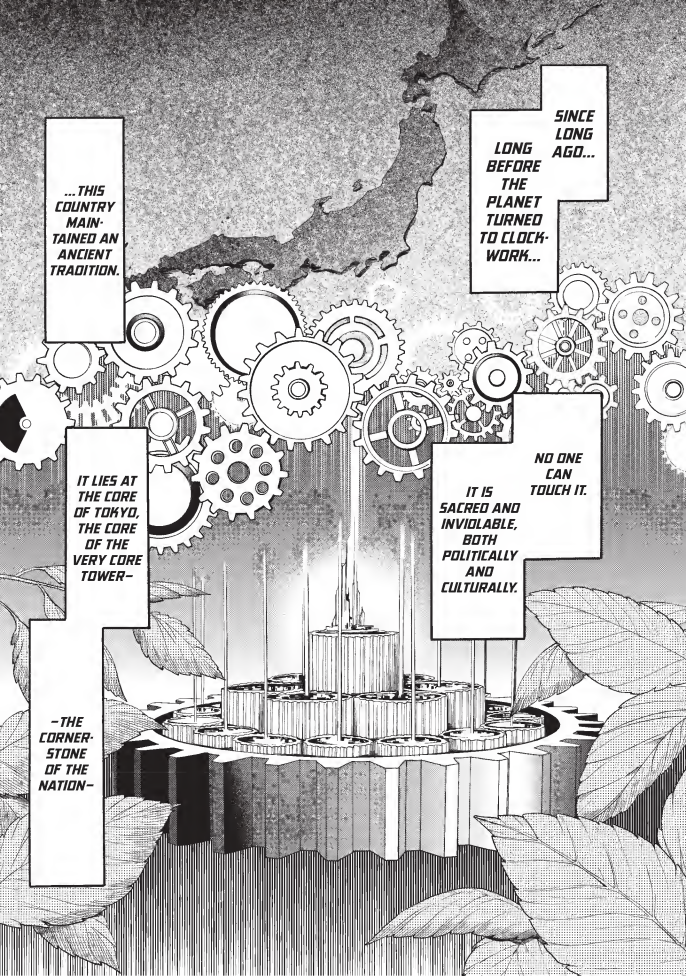


THROW
AWAY ALL
DOUBT!

JUST
DO IT!

CLOCKWORK
PLANET

CLOCKWORK
PLANET



...THIS
COUNTRY
MAIN-
TAINED AN
ANCIENT
TRADITION.

SINCE
LONG
AGO...

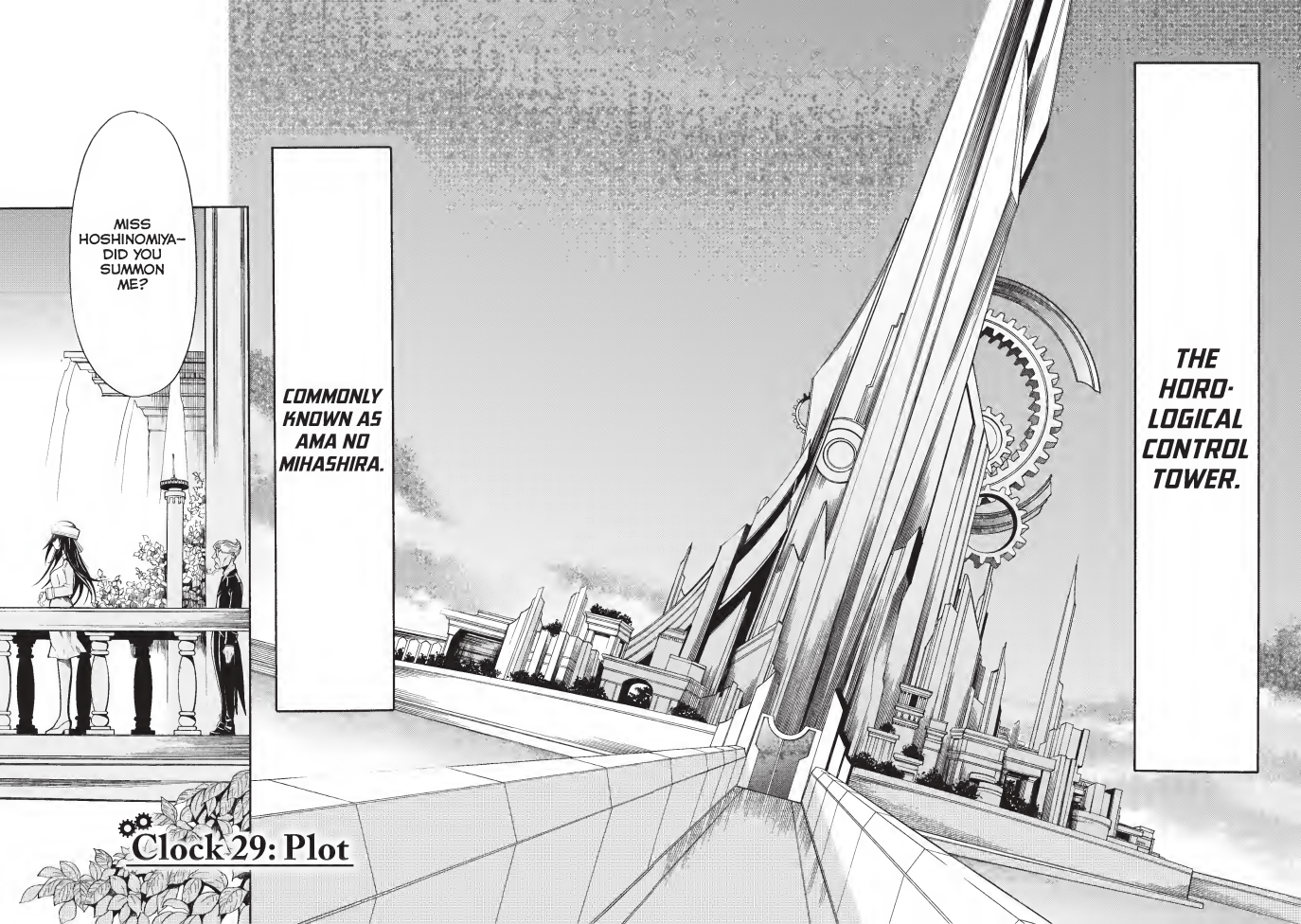
LONG
BEFORE
THE
PLANET
TURNED
TO CLOCK-
WORK...

IT LIES AT
THE CORE
OF TOKYO,
THE CORE
OF THE
VERY CORE
TOWER--

NO ONE
CAN
TOUCH IT.

IT IS
SACRED AND
INVIOABLE,
BOTH
POLITICALLY
AND
CULTURALLY.

--THE
CORNER-
STONE
OF THE
NATION--



MISS
HOSHINOMIYA—
DID YOU
SUMMON
ME?

*COMMONLY
KNOWN AS
AMA NO
MIHASHIRA.*

*THE
HORO-
LOGICAL
CONTROL
TOWER.*

 Clock 29: Plot



I'M
AFRAID WELL.
NOT...
NO CLUES
HAVE PRE-
SENTED
THEM-
SELVES
YET.



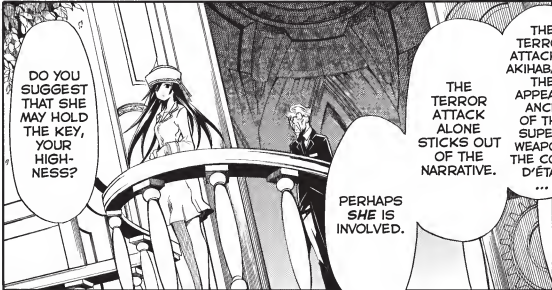
MR.
KUSU-
NOKI.

DID YOU
FIND ANY
TRACE OF
MARIE?



STILL
...

I SEE.



DO YOU
SUGGEST
THAT SHE
MAY HOLD
THE KEY,
YOUR
HIGH-
NESS?

THE
TERROR
ATTACK IN
AKIHABARA,
THE
APPEAR-
ANCE
OF THE
SUPER-
WEAPON,
THE COUP
D'ÉTAT
...

PERHAPS
SHE IS
INVOLVED.



TO SEIZE
CONTROL
OF AN
ENTIRE CITY
GRID AND
DO WITH
IT AS ONE
PLEASES IS
A WORK OF
IMPOSSI-
BILITY.

NO, I
SUGGEST
THAT SHE
MAY BE THE
CULPRIT.

I KNOW OF
ONLY ONE
CLOCKSMITH
WITH SKILLS
CAPABLE OF
SUCH A FEAT.



...BUT I
KNOW THAT
SHE IS ALIVE,
SOMEWHERE
IN TOKYO.

PUBLICLY,
SHE IS
PRESUMED
DEAD...

GRID UENO

I GOTTA
SAY, YOU
LOOK
GOOD LIKE
THAT.

OH,
IT'S
YOU,
KID!

WE'RE
BACK!

WE'RE
BACK...

...



LET ME SEE.
I'M WORRIED
ABOUT WHAT
SOME PERVY
OLD GUY
MIGHT DO
TO YOU.

QUESTION
IS, WHAT'S
UNDER
THE SKIRT?

WHOA
...

'SUP?

OH,
YEAH.

SHE'S
BEEN LIKE
THAT EVER
SINCE SHE
GOT BACK.



ALL
THESE
CLOCK-
WORK
PARTS
DEFYING
GRAVITY.

IT'S AS IF
THE AIR IS
SPLITTING.



THEY'RE
NOT REALLY,
BUT THEY'RE
FLYING SO
FAST AS SHE
PUTS THEM
BACK
TOGETHER...



...AS THEY
FALL INTO
THEIR
CORRECT
POSITIONS.



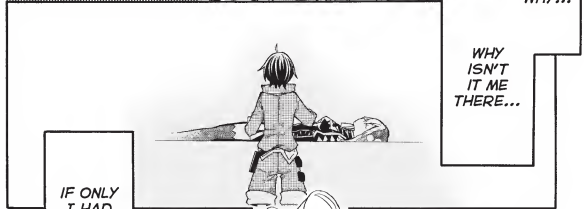
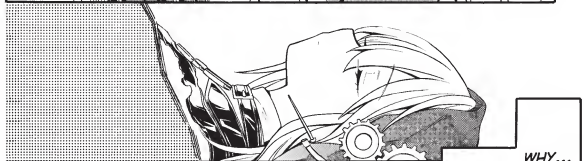
IT'S
LIKE...

...THIS
HARMONY
OF MARIE'S
BREATH
AND HER
BLOOD...

...HER
BONES AND
HER FLESH,
ALL BEAT
TOGETHER...



...IN A
PERFECT
SYMPHONY
OF THE
GODS.



IF ONLY
I HAD
HANDS
LIKE
MARIE'S
...



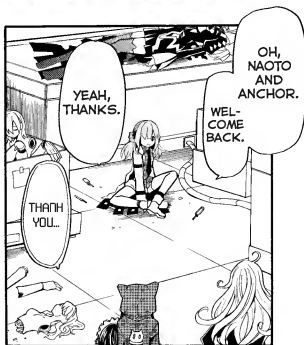
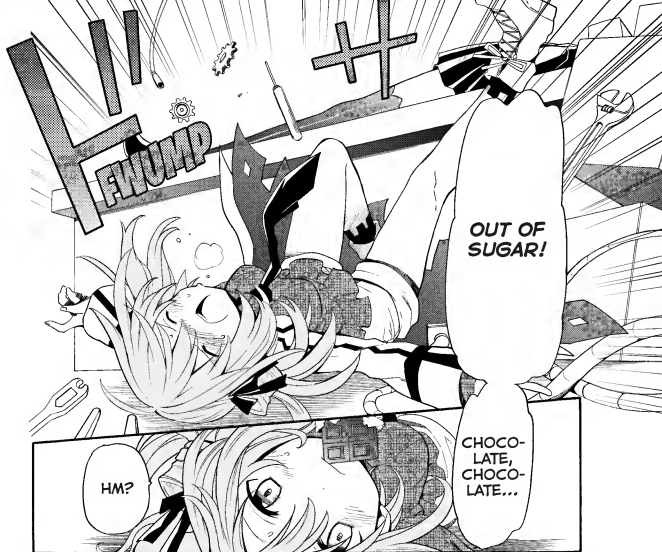
IF ONLY MY
HANDS...

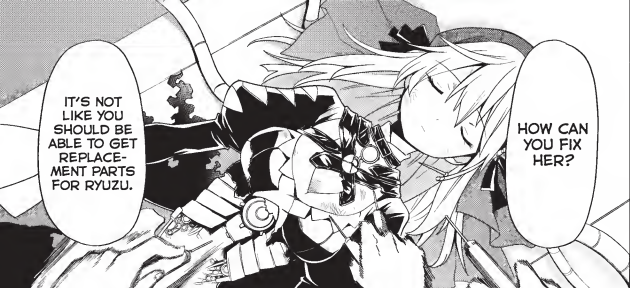
...COULD
FIX HER!

HFFF!

CLATTER







IT'S NOT
LIKE YOU
SHOULD BE
ABLE TO GET
REPLACE-
MENT PARTS
FOR RYUZU.

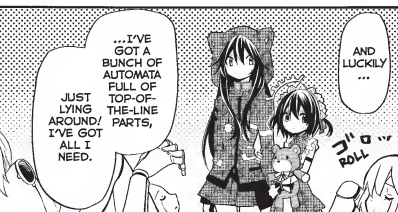
HOW CAN
YOU FIX
HER?



I
DON'T
EVEN
NEED THE
PLANS
ANYMORE.
I'VE GOT
HER
LAYOUT
MEMO-
RIZED
DOWN
TO THE
NANO-
GEARS.

I
TOOK
HER
APART
AND PUT
HER
TOGETHER
SO MANY
TIMES,
HOPING
TO GET
HER
MOVING
AGAIN
SOME-
HOW.

ANYWAY,
RYUZU WAS
PART OF THE
BREGUET
FAMILY
COLLECTION,
YOU KNOW?



JUST
LYING
AROUND!
I'VE GOT
ALL I
NEED.

...I'VE
GOT A
BUNCH OF
AUTOMATA
FULL OF
TOP-OF-
THE-LINE
PARTS,

AND
LUCKILY
...

ROLL



EVERYTHING
BUT THAT
ABSDURD
"IMAGINARY
GEAR" WE
CAN DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT.



YOU AND ALL
THOSE PUPPET
STRIPPERS CAN
BITE ME.

DIDN'T YOU
SEE THE
GEEZER
AFTER YOU
SMASHED
UP 27 OF
THEM? HE
LOOKED
LIKE THE
WORLD WAS
ENDING.

MAYBE
YOU
SHOULD
HOLD
BACK A
LITTLE,
THOUGH.



SORRY.

UH.

I
DON'T
KNOW
HOW.

I NEED
THREE
RESONANCE-
COUPLED
AUTO-
NOMOUS
MOVE-
MENTS.

NAOTO,
WILL YOU
GIVE ME
A HAND?



CAN'T
DO THAT
EITHER.



THEN
JUST
MAKE
ME THE
CIRCUITS,
WILL YOU?

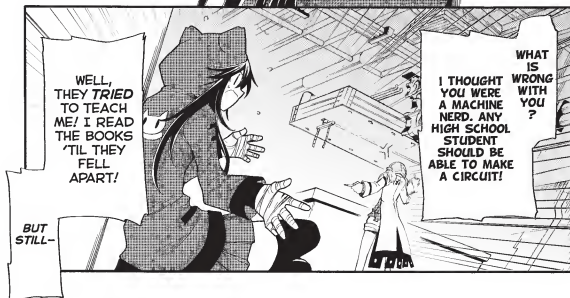
?



...IS
COM-
PLETELY
BEYOND
ME.

WHAT
YOU'RE
DOING
RIGHT
NOW...

FWP...
すゝゝ



WELL,
THEY TRIED
TO TEACH
ME! I READ
THE BOOKS
'TIL THEY
FELL
APART!

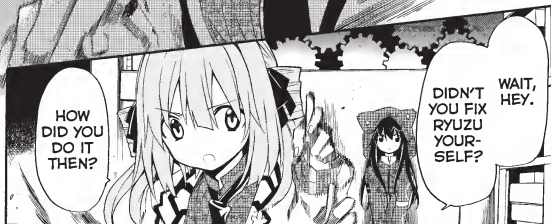
BUT
STILL-

WHAT
IS
WRONG
WITH
YOU ?
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
A MACHINE
NERD. ANY
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT
SHOULD BE
ABLE TO MAKE
A CIRCUIT!



IF ONLY I HAD
FREAKISH SENSES
LIKE NAOTO'S...

I
WOULDN'T
WASTE A
SECOND...
I'D MAKE USE
OF EVERY BIT
OF THEM!



HOW
DID YOU
DO IT
THEN?

DIDN'T
YOU FIX
RYUZU
YOURSELF?

WAIT,
HEY.



**BLIND
FUM-
BLING.**

**BLIND
...**

**FUM-
BLING?**

**TO A
FREEZE**



**SO WHY
CAN'T HE
UNDER-
STAND THE
BOOKS?**

**AND HE'S
PROVEN
IT BY
FIXING
HER.**

**I THINK
NAOTO
UNDER-
STANDS
RYUZU'S
COMPLEX
STRUCTURE
BETTER
THAN I DO,
WITH HIS
CRAZY
HEARING.**



**I DON'T
GET THE
THEORY, YOU
KNOW, SO I
JUST TRIED
EVERYTHING
UNTIL IT
SOUNDED
RIGHT.**



MAYBE
NAOTO
HAS
MIS-
UNDER-
STOOD
SOME-
THING
DEEPLY

...





WHEN
ACTUALLY,
I'M THE ONE
WHO DOESN'T
GET IT AT ALL.

OR WAIT...
MAYBE I
JUST THINK
I GET IT...



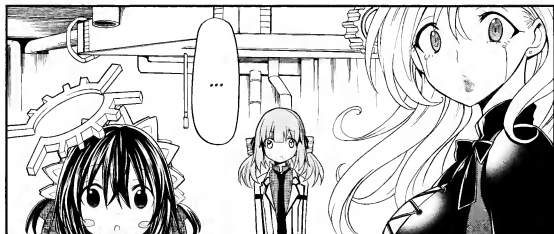
YOU KNOW
AMA NO
MIHASHIRA,
THAT HUGE
BUILDING?
IT'S UNDER
IMPERIAL
JURIS-
DICTION,
ISN'T IT?

SAY,
MARIE.



**WE'RE
GONNA
TAKE IT
OVER.**

**WE'RE
GONNA
TAKE OVER
THE
IMPERIAL
PALACE.**



DO YOU
KNOW
WHAT KIND
OF PLACE
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT?

YOU
PEOPLE.
YOU'RE
INSANE.

HEY,
MARIE.
THINK
ABOUT
IT.

YOU DON'T
HAVE
TO BE
JAPANESE
TO KNOW
THAT
PLACE
IS OFF-
LIMITS.

THE
HORO-
LOGICAL
CONTROL
TOWER—
AMA NO
MIHASHIRA.

SURE
I DO.
THE
TOWER
HOLDS
TOGETHER
THE CORE
TOWERS
OF ALL
THE
GRIDS OF
TOKYO.

AND
EVERYONE
KNOWS
IT WAS
US WHO
LAUNCHED
THE
TERROR
ATTACK.

WE GOT
THE DROP
ON THEM
CLAIMING
RESPON-
SIBILITY FOR
A CRIME.

SO—



WHAT IF WE
ALSO CLAIM
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE
SUPERWEAPON,
FOR THE E.M.P.
...

FOR
EVERY-
THING
...?



IT WAS
JUST SOME
PASSER-BY WHO
DEALT THEM
A BLOW FROM
THE SIDE-
THAT'S US!
♥

COUP
D'ÉTAT?
CONSPIR-
ACY?
NEVER
HAPPENED.
SO NO
ONE'S
RESPON-
SIBLE FOR
THAT.

EVEN IF
THINGS GO
THE WAY
HE PLANS,
WE'LL BE
THE BAD
GUYS=

YOU KNOW
THIS IS
GOING TO
BE HELL
WHETHER WE
FAIL OR WE
SUCCEED?

-HEINOUS
CRIMINALS OF
HISTORICAL
PROPORTIONS!

THAT
SHOULD BE
ENOUGH TO
BOIL THEM.

HEY,
GIRLY.

SO
SCARED
YOU'RE
GONNA
WET
YOUR-
SELF?

WHAT?!

IT'S
NOT
...!

MOMMY...
ARE YOU
SCARED?
I'LL PROTECT
YOU.

THE
POT'S
AKIHABARA.

THE
KINDLING'S
AMA NO
MIHASHIRA.

MARIE.



DON'T YOU
REMEMBER
WHAT YOU
SAID ON THE
SCHOOL
ROOF?

I
MEAN
...

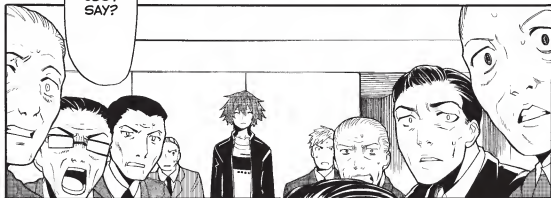
IT WAS YOUR
IDEA TO BE
TERRORISTS,
WASN'T IT,
MARIE?

GRID KASUMIGASEKI

RULING PARTY HQ

SIR,

WHAT
DID YOU
JUST
SAY?

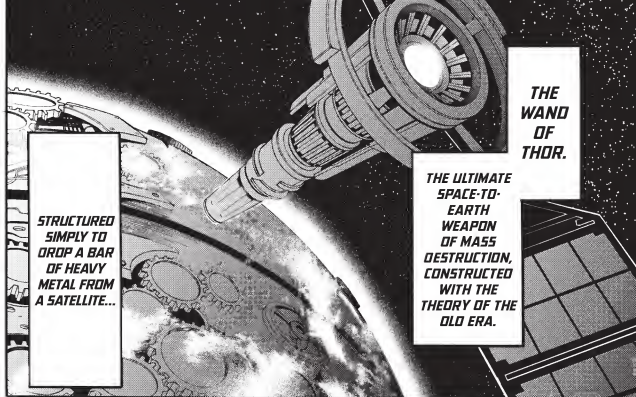


THE
WAND
OF
THOR?!

YOU'VE
REALLY
DONE
IT NOW,
SCUM!

AHEM
H
H
H

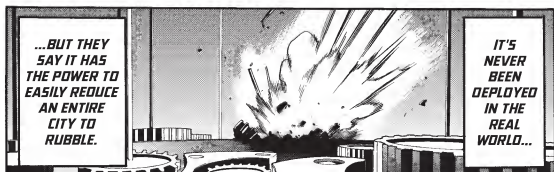
I HAVE
MADE AN
EMERGENCY
REQUEST
FOR THE
USE OF THE
WAND OF
THOR UPON
AKIHABARA.



**THE
WAND
OF
THOR.**

**STRUCTURED
SIMPLY TO
DROP A BAR
OF HEAVY
METAL FROM
A SATELLITE...**

**THE ULTIMATE
SPACE-TO-
EARTH
WEAPON
OF MASS
DESTRUCTION,
CONSTRUCTED
WITH THE
THEORY OF THE
OLD ERA.**

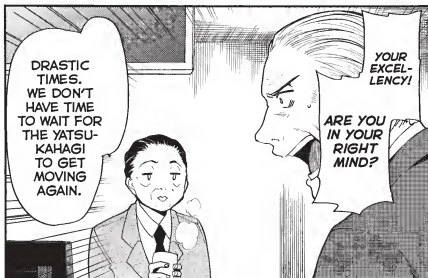


**...BUT THEY
SAY IT HAS
THE POWER TO
EASILY REDUCE
AN ENTIRE
CITY TO
RUBBLE.**

**IT'S
NEVER
BEEN
DEPLOYED
IN THE
REAL
WORLD...**



SIR...

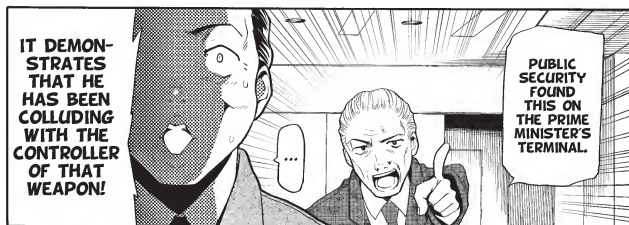
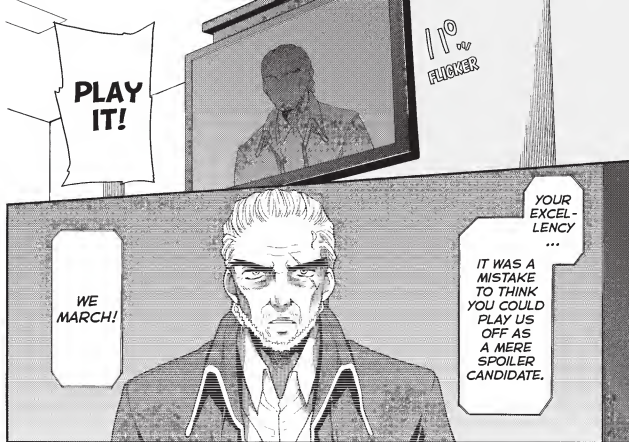


**DRASTIC
TIMES.
WE DON'T
HAVE TIME
TO WAIT FOR
THE YATSU-
KAHAGI
TO GET
MOVING
AGAIN.**

**YOUR
EXCEL-
LENCY!

ARE YOU
IN YOUR
RIGHT
MIND?**









WHAT
SORT
OF
NON-
SENSE
ARE
YOU...?

YOU APPEAR
TO HAVE
LEARNED OF
THE SITUATION
BEFOREHAND,
WHICH WOULD
IMPLY THAT
YOU ARE
CONNECTED
WITH THE
ENEMY, JUST
LIKE THE
PRIME
MINISTER.

THE COUP
D'ÉTAT, THE
RASH DECISION
OF THE PRIME
MINISTER, THE
ACCUSATIONS
AND CHAOS
FOLLOWING,
EVERYTHING...

IT'S JUST TOO
PERFECT...

THERE'S
NO DOUBT
ABOUT IT...



A man in a dark suit is walking away from the viewer down a long, brightly lit corridor. The corridor has a high ceiling with recessed lights and walls that appear to be made of a reflective material. The perspective is from behind the man, looking down the length of the hallway.

IN THE
RULING PARTY
HQ IN GRID
KASUMIGASEKI.
FOUND A
PERSON WHO
DOES NOT
BELONG
TO THE
GOVERNMENT.

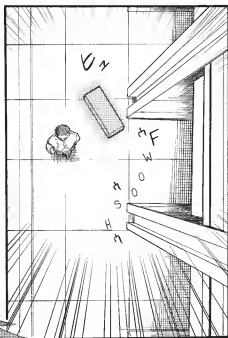
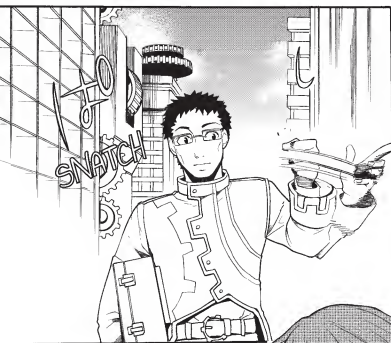
THIS
IS YU
KARA-
SAWA.

FEBRUARY 9,
7:20 PM.

OH, AND
WHILE I'M
AT IT, I'LL
SEE WHAT
THE ARMED
FORCES ARE
DOING NEXT,
MEISTER
MARIE.

NOW
PURSU-
ING TO
UNCOVER
CONNEC-
TIONS.





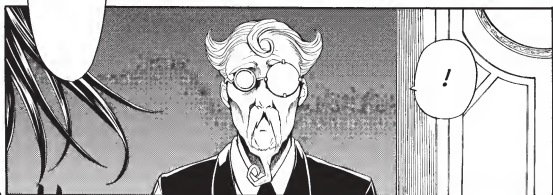
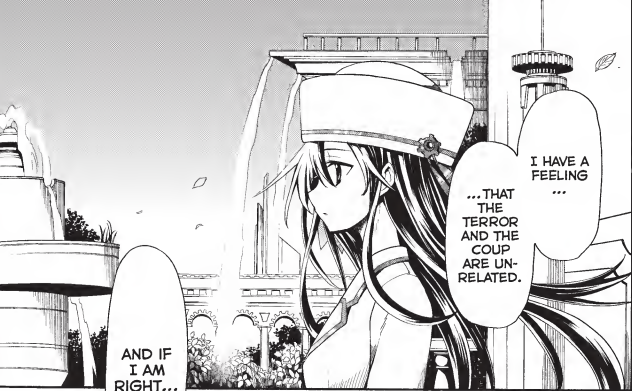
AM I
CORRECT
IN REMEM-
BERING THAT
MARIE BELL
BREGUET
WAS YOUR
SCHOOL-
MATE?

SHE
WAS SMALL,
YET A BALL
OF FIRE. SO
PASSIONATE
AND
RIGHTEOUS-
THE FINEST
OF CLOCK-
SMITHS.

YES.
HOW WELL
YOU RE-
MEMBER.

I
DON'T
KNOW.
BUT...

WHY
WOULD
SUCH A
PERSON
TURN TO
TERROR?



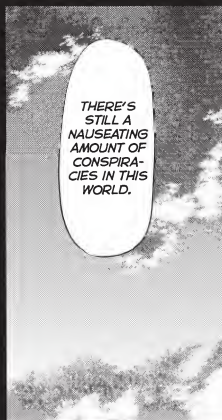


...THERE
MAY BE
ONE
MORE
WAVE.



IT'S
LIKELY NO
ONE WILL
PRAISE US
OR THANK
US...

AND
THAT'S
WHERE WE
COME IN-
TO MOVE
FREELY
AND
EXPOSE
THE GOV-
ERNMENT'S
CONSPIRA-
CIES.



THERE'S
STILL A
NAUSEATING
AMOUNT OF
CONSPIRA-
CIES IN THIS
WORLD.



...BUT
IT SURE
AS HELL
WOULD FEEL
AWESOME,
WOULDN'T
IT?!



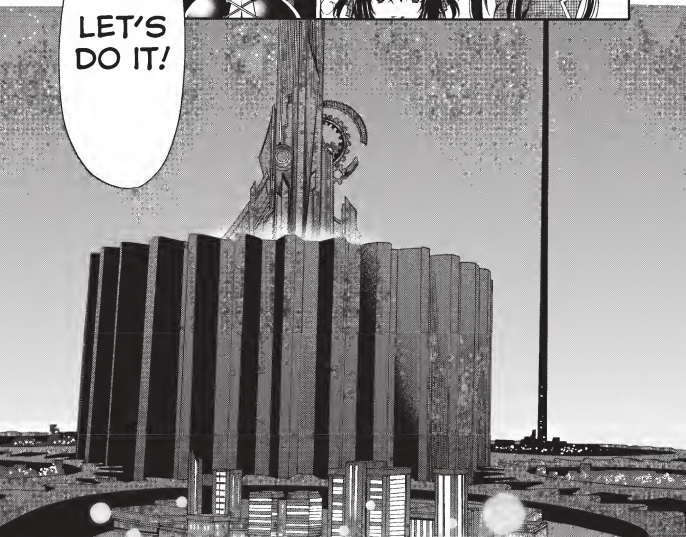
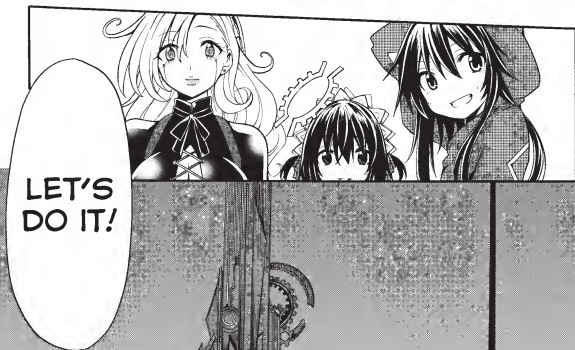
BUT...

YOU
GUYS ARE
SERIOUSLY
HOPELESS
IDIOTS.



...I
GUESS...

...I'M THE
SAME KIND
OF IDIOT
AS YOU.



CLOCKWORK
PLANET

FEBRUARY 10, 5:17 AM

GRID SAKURADAMON: THE IMPERIAL PALACE

*I REPEAT,
IT HAS BEEN TWO
DAYS SINCE THE
UTTER CHAOS OF
FEBRUARY 8.*

*LET'S
REVIEW THE
INCIDENT.*





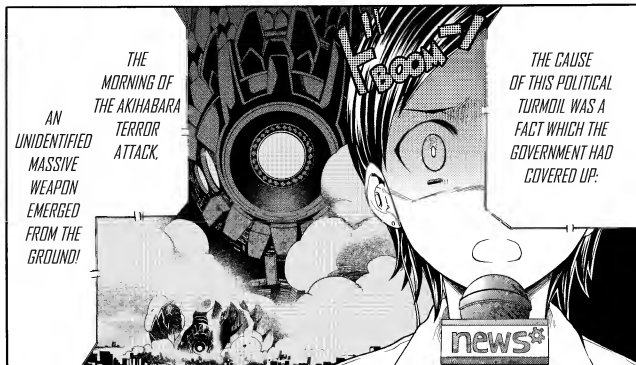
SIMILAR
ACCUSA-
TIONS
WERE
LEVELED
AT THE
MINISTER
OF
DEFENSE.

AT THE SAME
TIME, THE PRIME
MINISTER WAS
STRIPPED OF
HIS AUTHORITY
AND ACCUSED OF
INCITING UNREST
AND CONSPIRING
WITH EXTERNAL
POWERS.



A
NATIONAL
STATE OF
EMERGENCY
WAS
DECLARED.

ON THE
MORNING OF
FEBRUARY 8,
THE PRIME
MINISTER
SUDDENLY
MADE AN
EMERGENCY
REQUEST TO USE
THE WAND OF
THOR ON GRID
AKIHABARA.



THE
MORNING OF
THE AKIHABARA
TERROR
ATTACK,

AN
UNIDENTIFIED
MASSIVE
WEAPON
EMERGED
FROM THE
GROUND!

THE CAUSE
OF THIS POLITICAL
TURMOIL WAS A
FACT WHICH THE
GOVERNMENT HAD
COVERED UP:



THE PROSPECT OF
TOKYO'S TOTAL COLLAPSE
FEELS INCREASINGLY
REAL AS RIOTS AND PANIC
BREAK OUT ACROSS THE
MULTIPLE GRID.
THE GOVERNMENT HAS
LOST THE POWER TO
CONTROL THE SITUATION.

NO INCOMPETENTS IN THE DIET!
NO SUPERWEAPONS IN THE GRID!

AKIHABARA HAS
LOST FUNCTIONALITY.
WHILE THE WEAPON
REMAINS ENCAPSED
IN THE GRID.



IN
THIS TIME
OF CRISIS,
NEITHER THE
GOVERNMENT NOR
THE ARMED
FORCES HAVE
STEPPED UP
TO SERVE
THEIR DUTY.

BUT NOW,
A YOUNG
OFFICER
HAS
STEPPED
FORWARD.

AND
HERE HE IS!
CAPTAIN
SUMITADA
HIKOSHIMA!

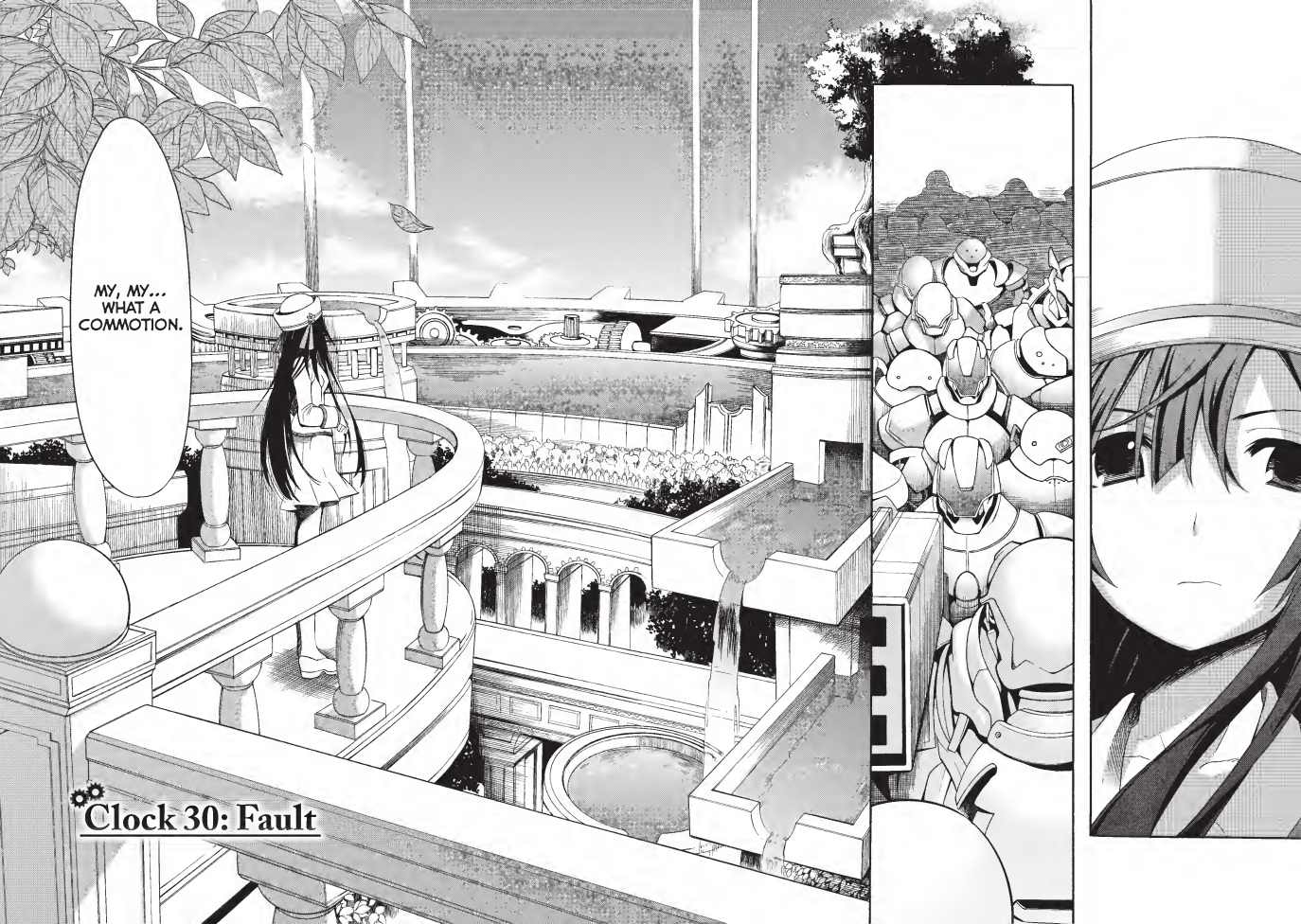


THE TIME IS
NEARING,
AND TENSIONS
ARE RISING.
WE'LL KEEP
YOU POSTED.

NOW,
BACK TO
YOU...

CAPTAIN
HIKOSHIMA AND HIS
MEN INTEND TO STORM
THE IMPERIAL PALACE
AND MAKE A NEW
PROPOSAL FOR
REGIME CHANGE TO
THE IMPERIAL HOUSE.





MY, MY...
WHAT A
COMMOTION.

 **Clock 30: Fault**

FEBRUARY 8

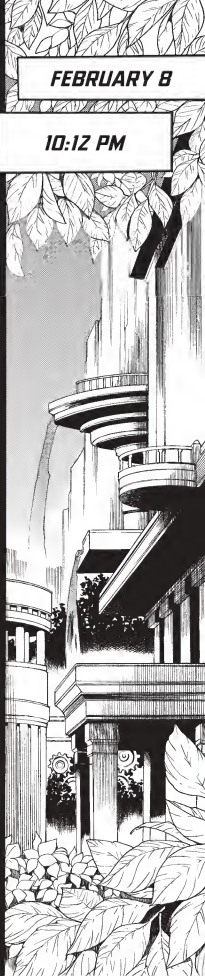
10:12 PM

...AND THE
REQUEST
TO USE
THE WAND
OF THOR
STILL
STANDS.

THE
THREAT
OF A
MASSIVE
WEAPON
LOOMS
ON...

I HAVE
STEPPED UP
TO TAKE THE
REINS FROM
A NON-
FUNCTIONING
GOVERNMENT
AND MILITARY.

**SUMITADA HIKOSHIMA,
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
COMMAND**





WE
CAN NO
LONGER
REMAIN
SILENT!

TO
RESOLVE
THE
RANGE OF
PROBLEMS
WE FACE,
WON'T YOU
LEND YOUR
SUPPORT
TO US AS
THE NEW
ADMINISTRA-
TORS OF
THIS
NATION?

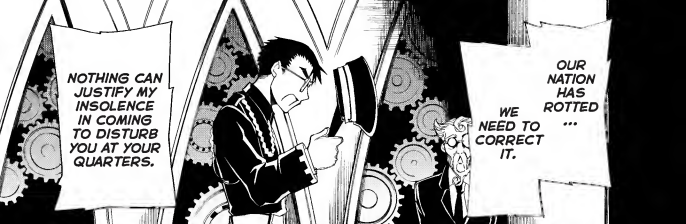


THE SYMBOL
OF YOUR
AUTHORITY
IS VITAL TO
PROVE OUR
SOVEREIGNTY!



**YOUR
IMPERIAL
HIGHNESS
HOUKO
HOSHI-
NOMIYA!**





NOTHING CAN
JUSTIFY MY
INSOLENCE
IN COMING
TO DISTURB
YOU AT YOUR
QUARTERS.

OUR
NATION
HAS
ROTTED
...
WE
NEED TO
CORRECT
IT.



WILL YOU
NEVERTHELESS
LEND US YOUR
SUPPORT, FOR
THE SAKE OF
THE COUNTRY?!

BUT,
YOUR
IMPERIAL
HIGH-
NESS!

WHOOM



I BEG
YOU,
PLEASE
RECON-
SIDER!

ALLOW
ME TO
ASK...



I
REFUSE.

BUT IT IS
MEANING-
LESS.

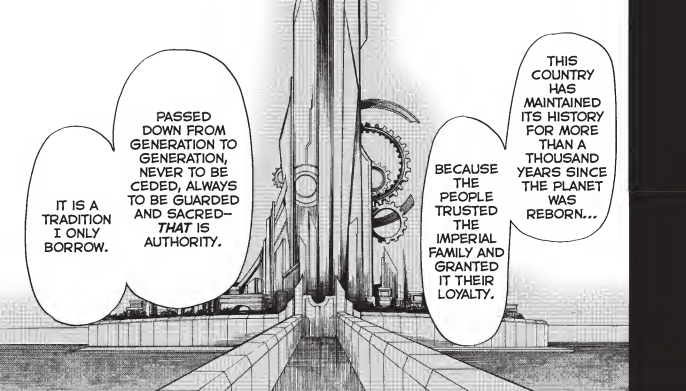
I
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT
YOU ARE
SAYING.



...DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
AUTHORITY
IS?

AU...

...
THOR-
ITY?



IT IS A
TRADITION
I ONLY
BORROW.

PASSED
DOWN FROM
GENERATION TO
GENERATION,
NEVER TO BE
CEDED, ALWAYS
TO BE GUARDED
AND SACRED—
THAT IS
AUTHORITY.

BECAUSE
THE
PEOPLE
TRUSTED
THE
IMPERIAL
FAMILY AND
GRANTED
IT THEIR
LOYALTY.

THIS
COUNTRY
HAS
MAINTAINED
ITS HISTORY
FOR MORE
THAN A
THOUSAND
YEARS SINCE
THE PLANET
WAS
REBORN...



...THE
FOUNDATIONS
BUILT OVER
ALL THOSE
YEARS
WOULD
CRUMBLE.

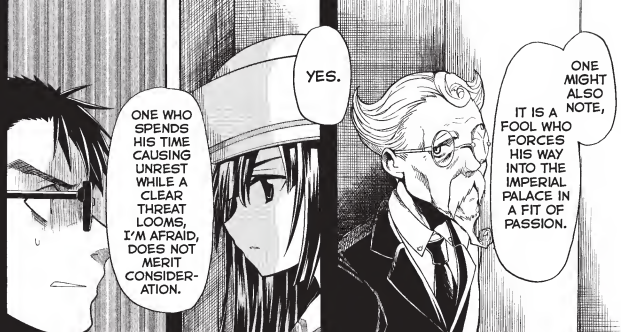
IF I
VALIDATE
YOUR RIGHT-
EOUSNESS
NOW...



DO
YOU
KNOW
THE
WEIGHT
OF
THIS?

AUTHORITY
IS NOT TO BE
HANDLED SO
LIGHTLY.





YES.

ONE WHO SPENDS HIS TIME CAUSING UNREST WHILE A CLEAR THREAT LOOMS, I'M AFRAID, DOES NOT MERIT CONSIDERATION.

ONE MIGHT ALSO NOTE,

IT IS A FOOL WHO FORCES HIS WAY INTO THE IMPERIAL PALACE IN A FIT OF PASSION.



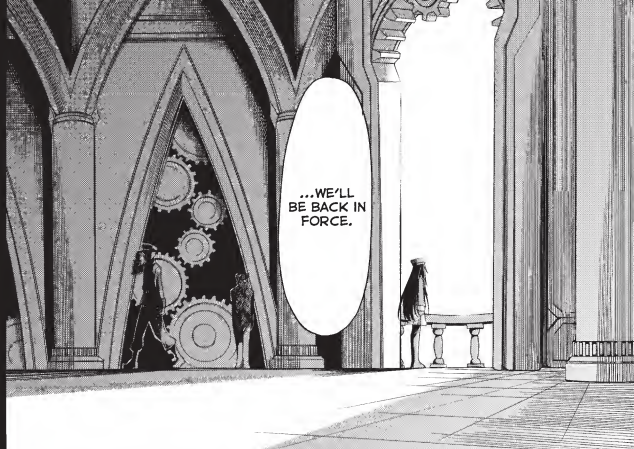
PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE MY OWN FEELINGS AND OBLIGATIONS AS WELL.

BUT I RECOGNIZE THAT YOU HAVE YOUR OWN FEELINGS AND OBLIGATIONS.



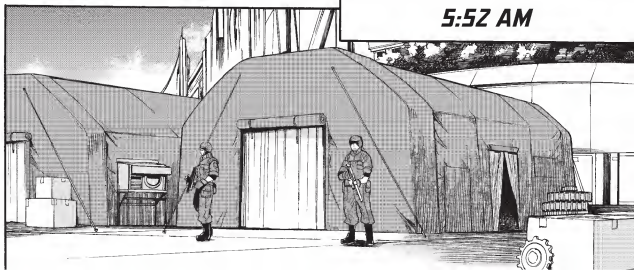
THEY WILL NOT BEND.





FEBRUARY 10

5:52 AM



A MAKESHIFT COMMAND CENTER—

**DAMN
IT!**

WHAM

I THOUGHT
THE PRINCESS
WOULD BE MY
FIGUREHEAD.
WHAT A
DISAPPOINT-
MENT!

WHY
CAN'T
SHE
UNDER-
STAND?!

BUT THE
SURVIVAL OF
THE NATION IS
AT STAKE...
THERE ARE
TIMES WHEN
WE HAVE TO
BEND WHAT'S
RIGHT TO
DO WHAT'S
NEEDED.

OF
COURSE IT
CAN'T BE
RIGHT TO
SEIZE POWER
BY MILITARY
MIGHT.



IT'S
TIME
FOR
DRASTIC
MEASURES.

I'LL
MAKE UP
FOR IT
WITH
RESULTS!

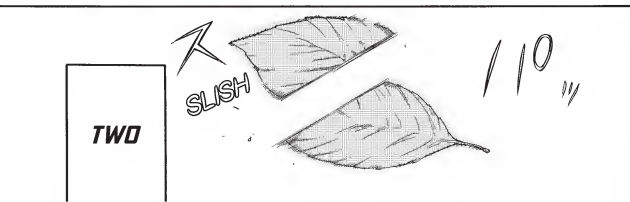
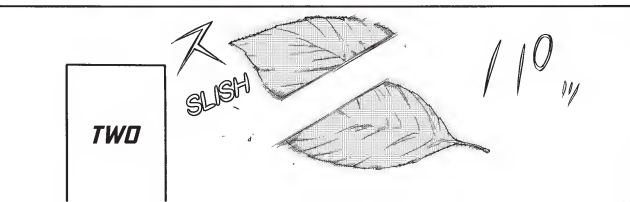
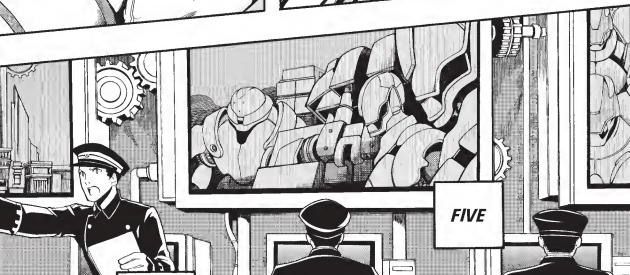


EIGHT

NINE



TEN SECONDS TO THE RAID—







WHO'S THE
IDIOT WHO
OPENED
FIRE BEFORE
I GAVE
THE FINAL
ORDERS?

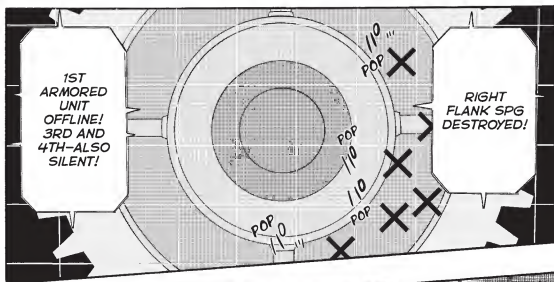
WHAT
WAS
THAT?!
WHO
JUMPED
THE
GUN?!



WHAT
DID
YOU
SAY?

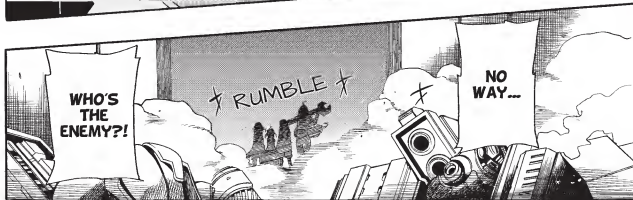
EMERGENCY!
7TH UNIT
DESTROYED!

APPARENT
ENEMY
ATTACK
FROM
BEHIND.



1ST
ARMORED
UNIT
OFFLINE!
3RD AND
4TH-ALSO
SILENT!

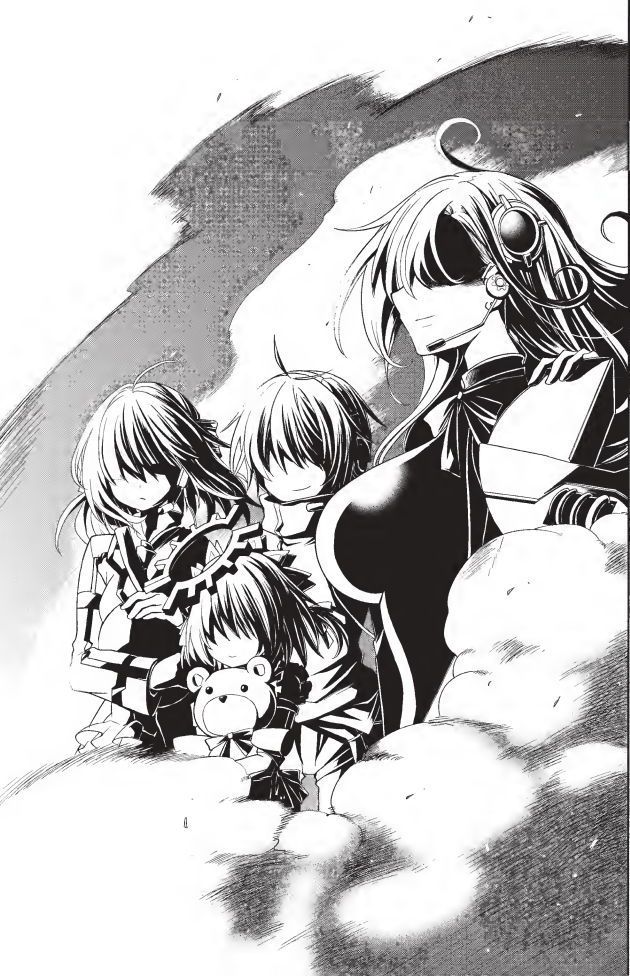
RIGHT
FLANK SPG
DESTROYED!



WHO'S
THE
ENEMY?!

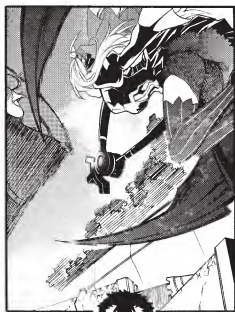
✕ RUMBLE ✕

NO
WAY...











GRSHH

AAH...

AFTER APPROXIMATELY
48 HOURS,
THE TASTE
OF FRESH
AIR...

KSH

KSH



BOOM

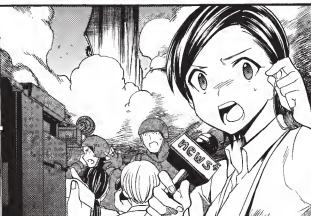
KKA

...IS
DELICIOUS.

...BUT IT
SEEMS
INSTEAD
THAT SOME
OF THE
ARMY'S
WEAPONS
HAVE BEEN
DESTROYED
IN AN
INSTANT.

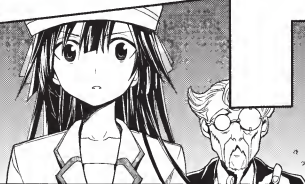
AT FIRST IT
APPEARED
THAT THE
ARMY HAD
BEGUN ITS
INCURSION
...

NOW WHAT'S
HAPPENING
HERE?!



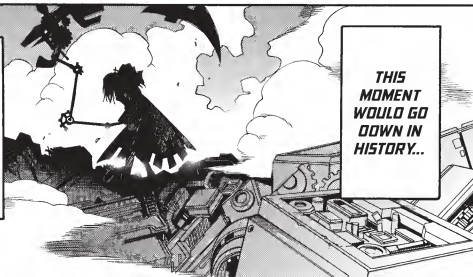
5:59 AM,
JAPAN
STANDARD
TIME.

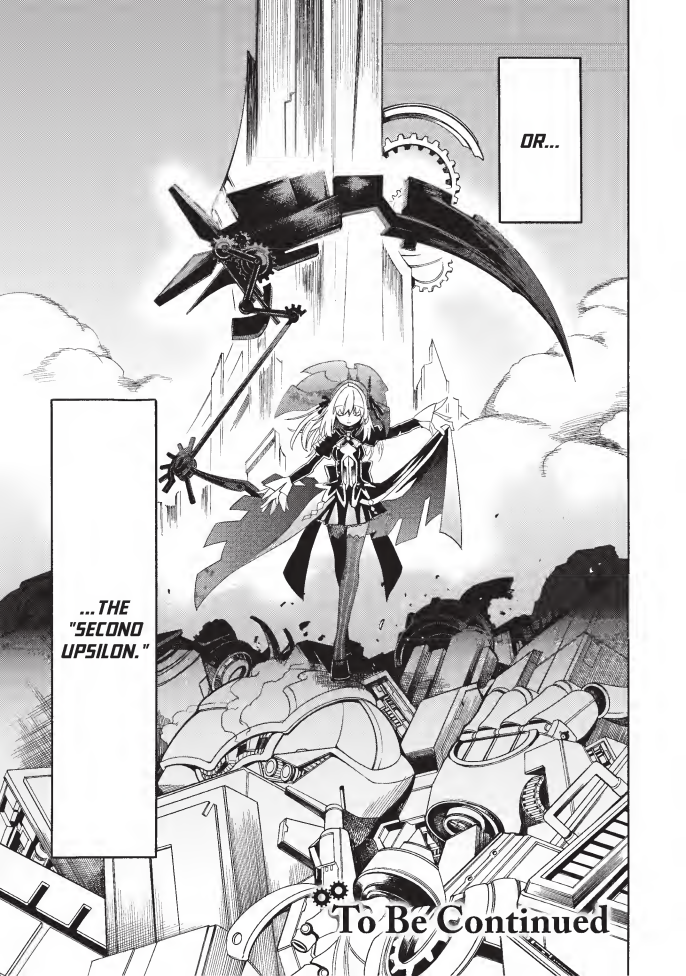
FEBRUARY 10,
1016 GE



...AS "2/8,"
"THE TOKYO
INCIDENT,"
THE "2/9
INSURGENCE,"
OR THE
"SAKURADAMON
CONFERENCE."

THIS
MOMENT
WOULD GO
DOWN IN
HISTORY...





OR...

*... THE
"SECOND
UPSILON."*

 **To Be Continued**

YK: (looking like a boxer in the tenth round) Sorry I look like this, but here I am, Yuu Kamiya!

TH: (looking like a boxer who's been knocked out) We just finished assigning blame for the delay in the novels with our fists! I'm Tsubaki Himana!

YK: So, it's "Say something funny" again—you got something?

TH: Huh? You know the only time I went out this year was for the anime meetings. Why ask me?

...

YK: Hmm. If hermitage on a mountaintop far from the vulgar world is enough to lead one to an understanding of all things, perhaps we, by secluding ourselves in our homes, may see the light... You seen anything?

TH: Oh. Uh. Actually, I think I have, maybe. For instance—

TH: I mean, this is more your bailiwick—but you know the event horizon?

YK: ...Sorry. I don't really feel like hitting you so hard that your consciousness goes beyond the observable uni—

TH: No, I mean, we just skyped the novel editor saying, "We really don't have anything funny," and he was like, "Okay, then, shall we skip it?" You could hear the "lol."

YK: Yeah. And we contemplated how much we've suffered for this section and entertained idle fantasies of killing this person?

TH: So that's my point. My heart was swayed not in the least. (Smiles like a buddha.)

YK: ...

TH: I only pondered the mysteries of the universe...specifically, what lies beyond that hat our editor always wears—indeed, beyond the event horizon.

YK: Curiosity...it is a form of attachment. It may resemble enlightenment and yet differ fundamentally—however! Is it not the case that, 2,500 years ago, Gautama crossed his legs in meditation in search of the truth of this world? Then to behold before us a clear mystery and then to not engage with it, is not enlightenment, but sloth! A fatass who has lost the will to endeavor is nothing more than a fatass! Or rather, indeed, a farm animal! I feel that my scale is calling out to me as the number of kilograms it displays breaks into three digits. What shall we make of it?!

TH: ...Oh (gets it). Frankly I was considering how to run away, but now I see what you mean.

YK: Yes, we see that to tear that hat from his head, take a photograph, and release it upon the great sea of electrons [the Internet] cannot be construed as retaliation or mere displacement of frustration! For it is to do just as Gautama taught us—to contribute to human efforts to build a tower of wisdom! And this, therefore, shall justify our actions without the trace of a doubt!

TH: How true! "The Truth that ends all pain, the Truth that is forever True"!

To tear off his hat might be no mean task.

In the nearly five years we have known him, he has never removed it.

Even in the office, none have once observed the cosmic mystery within.

But all the more! A human must endeavor.

TH: By the way, what do you think lies within the hat?

YK: In descending order of odds: Baldness. Another hat. A supersymmetric universe.

Pandora's last hope.

TH: I'm going with Schrödinger's cat, the primordial sea, a cockpit—or if you want to bet on the dark horse, a zipper.

YK: That's dark. (Gulp.)

TH: It's dark. (Gulp.)

YK: Uh, so! Now that we've reinvigorated our resolve! By the time this goes on sale, we'll be hard at work on the new novel, and the anime will be in production! We're really hoping you're looking forward to it!

TH: So if we make it back alive, let's meet again!

—

YK: Oh, and, Kuro! Nice job on female Vermouth!

TH: We've got away from that, but now I'm racking my brain trying to figure out how we can bring her back!

Yuu
Kamiya
&
Tsubaki
Himana



Afterword

AFTERWORD

SINCE I FIGURED THE MANGA READERS OUGHT TO ENJOY THE DRAWINGS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, I FIXED UP VERMOUTH A LITTLE EARLY.

THERE'S VERMOUTH WORKING FOR THE CLUB LIKE IT'S NOTHING. →

WHAT SPRIT. AND NEXT VOLUME YOU'LL GET TO SEE MORE OF HER (?) SPIRIT, SO I HOPE YOU'LL PICK IT UP. WITH THAT, SEE YOU IN VOLUME 7.

SPECIAL THANKS

☆ STAFF
RIN NEKOYA

☆ SUPPORT
MIHO MIYANISHI

☆ EDITOR
HIROSHI OGASAWARA

☆ DESIGNER
RYO HIRAGI

KURO

2017.1.6





Translation Notes

Your Excellency, page 6

A number of countries, including Japan, expect government ministers to be addressed as “Your Excellency.”

Someone's got to take responsibility, page 11

In Japan, it's conventional for officials to resign after something goes drastically wrong.

Ama no Mihashira, page 131

Ama no Mihashira (“the Pillar of Heaven”) is a pillar built by the early gods Izanagi and Izanami on the mythical first island of Japan, Onogoro. They circled the pillar on opposite sides, met, and became one, whereupon they bore the various islands of Japan.

“The truth that ends all pain,” page 202

A famous quote from the Heart Sutra. Dwight Goddard's 1932 translation is used here for the English version.

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攻殻機動隊

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VERSION OF THE
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EDITION SUPERVISED
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THREE ORIGINAL
*THE GHOST IN THE
SHELL* VOLUMES ARE
PRESENTED FOR THE
FIRST TIME IN THE
ORIGINAL RIGHT-TO-
LEFT READING FORMAT,
WITH UNALTERED
JAPANESE ART AND
SOUND EFFECTS.

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